ST COLUMB MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of St Columb Major Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Columb Major, on Tuesday, 18th May 2021 at 7.00pm, and broadcast live on the Town Council's Facebook Page.

Present: Cllrs P Wills, Mrs J Warner, Mrs F McLeod, Mrs F Fuery, S Allen, Mrs L Jiggins, S Whetter, K Roberts, S Taylor

In attendance: Mr M C Uren (Town Clerk), PCSO Parry (to item 07/21) and 6 members of the public (to item 03/21)

The Town Clerk welcomed everyone to the Meeting. He advised that it is a legal requirement to Elect a Mayor, and Deputy Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

01/21 **Election of Mayor for Civic Year 2021/22**

One nomination had been received for Mayor. Councillors voted unanimously to elect Cllr Wills as Mayor for the Civic Year 2021/22.

02/21 **Election of Deputy Mayor for Civic Year 2021/22**

One nomination had been received for Deputy Mayor. Councillors voted unanimously to elect Cllr. Mrs Warner as Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2021/22.

03/21 **Citizen of the Year 2020:**

The Mayor said a few words, and proceeded to present Malcom Burgess with a framed certificate for Citizen of the Year 2020. Mr Burgess responded accordingly.

04/21 **Mayor and Deputy Mayor – Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Oath of Allegiance**

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor both signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and the Oath of Allegiance.

05/21 **Mayor's Welcome:**

The Mayor, Cllr Wills, proceeded to welcome 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 am very pleased to have been re-elected to serve as the Cornwall Councillor for St Columb Major, St Wenn and, now for the first time, as part of the new electoral division, St-Mawgan-In- Pydar, and to serve this wonderful parish as Mayor once again.

Since the election it has been a busy time for all of us returned to office, and the newly elected Cornwall Councillors, with back-to-back Zoom Meetings, dealing with the Induction Process. The AGM of Cornwall Council is scheduled for 25th of May, where the new administration will take office. I am one of 16 Independents. There are 47 Conservatives, 13 Lib. Dems., 5 Mebyon Kernow, 5 Labour and 1 Green, making up the new 87 Councillors.

I have always been an Independent, and I have made it clear from day one, when first elected in 2017, that I make my own decisions, based on what I believe to be in the best interests of the people I serve, and the people of Cornwall.

In the last four years, (to give some background) I have been elected four times as Chairman of Cornwall Council's Standards Committee; served on the Licensing Act Committee (two years as Vice Chairman); served on the Customer and Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the Constitution and Governance Committee, and Vice Chairman of the Cornwall Airport Newquay Consultative Forum. I have substituted on most of the other Committees at one time or another, standing in for Councillors who could not make a Meeting, for various reasons.

All Councillors are now waiting for the political proportionality of the Council's Committees to be agreed before seats on various Committees will be allocated to each group. This will happen very soon, in the next week or so. I will be able to let you know which Committees I will be serving on at our next Meeting.

I believe that local government is the bedrock of our democracy. We, the elected representatives of the people, have a duty to ensure best practice,

and value for money. After all, it's OUR money which pays the taxes that fund the Services that we expect.

Town and Parish Councils have a duty of care to local people, looking after areas such as Parks and Cemeteries, footpaths, toilets, flower beds, hanging baskets, being part of Organisations connected to the area, and making sure local voices are heard at all levels of Government.

And, of course, giving the Council's opinions on Planning Applications for consideration by Planning Officers.

All Town and Parish Councils are consultees in the planning process. However, the final decisions are made by qualified Officers at County level. That does not mean that they do not consider the views of local Councils - I can assure you they do.

As your Cornwall Councillor I have the power to call into the Central Planning Committee any decisions I feel taken by Planning Officers that are, in my opinion, wrong or unjust, for consideration by the Central Planning Committee. I am a great believer in local people being given the chance to raise their families here, in the area in which they were born. We often hear of the so called "Brain Drain". Our young people born and bred from generations of families in the area being forced to move away to find jobs and places to live! The shortage of housing is a major issue in Cornwall for our young people wanting to start families of their own.

House prices are literally through the roof, with little, or no prospect of our young people being able to afford mortgages. So why can't they build their own homes, or convert empty buildings on land owned by their families? This is my pledge to them, if you apply for planning and are turned down, I will fight for your right to raise your families in the homes you want to build, or convert.

Here in St Columb Major the pandemic has, of course, caused us to halt work on the major projects we had planned, such as revamping the play area at the "Hurlings" and installing a toddler play area in Carloggas Grove. We can now turn out attention to these projects, and work on other projects and ideas that fall under the remit of the Town Council responsibility.

I, like you, am very proud of the achievements of this Council over the last eight years. Let's take a moment to reflect:

We bought this building, the Town Hall, saved our Library from closure, bought the former Wesley Chapel and converted it into a Children's Nursery when Major Steps had nowhere to go, helping many hard-working families with provision of childcare. We have installed many new pieces of play equipment in the children's play area of the Rec., including a seesaw, roundabout, multiuse climbing tower and agility trail. We have completely fenced the Rec for the first time in decades making it a safe place for our young people to enjoy. The two Chapels up at the Cemetery, for so many decades left to decay, have been completely refurbished, at a fraction of the cost previously estimated. The Closed Churchyard has had new gates installed at the Lych Gate, and West Street entrance, the paths resurfaced, the wall repointed, trees better managed, which is evident to all who now enjoy the space. We have helped the Youth Club by investing in bringing the building back into compliance for the first time in many years, and we are committed to helping the Youth Club, and not hindering them, in the future.

We have taken over many of the assets in the parish, which were formally under the control of Cornwall Council, such as Trekenning Road Car Park, investing in making it a safe and decent place to park. It remains free at weekends, and all Bank Holidays, and between 5pm and 9am Monday to Friday. The land at The Hurlings, and the green at Highfield Avenue are now cut on a regular basis, and enjoyed by residents. Those are just some of the things we have achieved.

I truly believe that we can take great pride in the achievements of this Council.

But we cannot, and will not, rest on our laurels.

As a Council we need to plan for the next four years, and look at what else we can do to improve our parish, and make life that much better for "One and All".

I very much look forward to the next four years, working with you all for the benefit of our community, and I thank each and everyone of you for your continued support and commitment to St Columb Major parish. By working together, we have, and will continue to do, great things, and make our parishioners proud to call this place home".

06/21 **Public Forum:**

There were no members of the public present. However, we had received an e-mail from Sue Sloan which states "There are now potentially 50 new homes being created in the Station Road/Barn Lane area if Plans are approved, with a further 125 envisaged on the current car boot field. In the light of this increase to the population, can the Town Council please share its vision for the future regarding essential services and infrastructure". Cllr Mrs Warner expressed grave concern regarding the current sewerage plant. It is not sufficient to deal with all the effluent created, which mostly comes now from Indian Queens. Basically, what needs to happen is for the pumps to be reversed. With regards to the proposed development on the car boot field, no plans have yet been submitted. Originally, we were informed that there was to be an extension to the school, and a new Doctor's Surgery. The developers were certainly made aware of the Town Council's concerns regarding the fact that there was not sufficient infrastructure in place.

07/21 **Report from County Councillor and Police:**

The County Councillor's report had already been presented.

PCSO Parry presented her report:

"Police Crime Figures from 01/04/21 until 29/04/21:

1. Malicious communication
2. Assault
3. Assault ABH
4. Assault ABH
5. Blackmail
6. Common Assault
7. Engage in controlling behaviour
8. Sexual assault
9. Harassment
10. Blackmail
11. Drink driving
12. Possession of Class C
13. Fail to provide
14. Assault
15. Assault
16. Threatening and abusive behaviour

Regards St Columb Major Neighbourhood Police Team

PCSO 30046 Anita Parry
P C 13338 Dan Carthew"

The Police Report for March 2021 has also been received, and is available for viewing, if desired.

08/21 **Apologies for Absence:**

All Councillors were present.

09/21 **Members Declarations of Interests:**

Members were reminded that they need to complete the Register of Interests Form, and return to the Town Clerk, for onward transmission to County Hall.

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

None

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

None

10/21 **To confirm Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on 8th December 2020 and of the Closed Session held immediately after the Full Council Meeting:**

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting, held on 8th December 2020, were presented by the Mayor.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Mrs McLeod seconded, and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted. A number of Councillors abstained, as they had not been present at the Meeting.

The Minutes of the Closed Session of the Full Council Meeting, held on 8th December 2020, were presented by the Mayor.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Allen seconded, and it was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted. A number of Councillors abstained, as they had not been present at the Meeting.

11/21 **Payment of Accounts – Members to Approve the Payment of Accounts to the end of April 2021:**

The Mayor proceeded to present the Accounts, paid up to the end of April 2021. This consisted of three financial statements – three months (December to February), March and April.

A small number of comments were made about the payments. It was agreed that an item be included on the next Agenda regarding the maintenance of the Jackie Law Memorial Garden.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Mrs Warner seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Payment of Accounts, up to the end of April 2021.

12/21 **Planning Matters:**

PA21/01247 – Outline Planning Permission, with some matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) reserved for the proposed construction of up to 10 dwellings houses – Land South of Horseshoe Close, Barn Lane, St Columb, Cornwall – Messrs. Carlyon and Helgesen

Cllr Wills gave an update on this Application. The area in question is locally known as Baker's Field. The Mayor, and Town Clerk, had met with residents at Barn Lane regarding this Application. Whilst there is no problem with regards to the development, access, and egress is most certainly the problem. Barn Lane is not adequate for any more vehicles using it. The name actually specifies that is in, in fact "a Lane". What is required is for access and egress to be made on land at the rear of Robena. We have also just very recently received another Planning Application for dwellings to be erected on the part of the field previously owned by the Methodist Church (PA21/04106). The solution would be for access and egress to be made across the land at the rear of Robena, and across the part of the field which was owned by the Methodist Church, on to Station Road.

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Whetter seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to support the Application, but with a Condition put on it that access and egress must be achieved by having a road built across the field (back of Robena and across the part of the field previously owned by the Methodist Church) leading on to Station Road.

PA21/3327 – Variation of a Section 106 Agreement to PA19/11040 dated 24th September 2020 to change and increase the mix from 8 affordable homes to 16 affordable rented dwellings – Land to the East of Station Road, St Columb, Cornwall – Georgina Hayman, Coastline Housing

It was confirmed that there will be the same number of houses built.

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

13/21 **To appoint Council Representatives on the following Outside Bodies:**

The following Council representatives were appointed to sit on Outside Bodies:

RAF	- Cllr Wills
Emergency Planning	- Cllr Wills
Community Network	- All Councillors are welcome to attend
Newquay Airport Forum	- Cllr Wills
St Breock Wind Farm Community Panel	- Cllrs Wills and Mrs McLeod
Denzell Downs Wind Farm Community Panel	- Cllrs Wills and Mrs Warner

14/21 **Standing Orders 2021, Financial Regulations 2021: Statement of Internal Control 2021: General Risk Assessment 2021: Fire Risk Assessment 2021: Code of Conduct 2021: Schedule of Meetings 2021/22:**

Cllr Wills proposed, Cllr Allen seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to adopt/re-adopt the following documents:-

Standing Orders 2021
Financial Regulations 2021
Statement of Internal Control 2021
General Risk Assessment 2021
Fire Risk Assessment 2021
Code of Conduct 2021 (newly amended)
Schedule of Meetings 2021/22

15/21 **Agreement for the Provision of Legal Services 2021/22:**

It was stated that, in effect, although we would enter into an Agreement with Cornwall Council, we would only pay if we use it.

Cllr Mrs Fuery proposed, Cllr Whetter seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to enter into an Agreement with Cornwall Council for the Provision of Legal Services.2021/22.

16/21 **Service Level Agreement with Parking Services- Cornwall Council:**

The Mayor and Town Clerk spoke about a newly prepared SLA with Parking Services, whereby we are able to use a Multi-skilled operative, who can issue fines for the dropping of litter and dog fouling. The cost would be an extra half an hour a week. We currently use Cornwall Council - Parking Services for 2 additional hours per week.

Cllr Whetter proposed, Cllr Mrs McLeod seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to enter into a newly enhanced SLA with Cornwall Council Parking Services.

17/21 **Town Hall - Roof:**

The Mayor and Town Clerk gave an update on the condition of the Town Hall roof. As agreed at the last Council Meeting, a survey has been carried out, together with a visit from Andrew Hayes, who is RICS Accredited on Building Conservation. and has also put forward his comments. Copies of the survey and report are available to view in the Town Clerk's Office. Basically, we need to "bite the bullet" and look to re-roof the Town Hall. The Town Hall is a Grade II* listed building, due to its special significance, architectural design, materials, setting and character. Any remedial work will require Listed Building Consent. Please take note of some comments made by Mr Hayes "The underside of the roof slopes are not underfelted in the modern sense, but, rather frustratingly, the north, east and south slopes have been covered with a spray foam treatment. …….. The only solution is to remove the foam, strip the slates, repair any damaged roof timber and re-slate the roof. ……..In this case the rag slate roof covering is of high historic significance, being part of the original build, and are now getting increasingly rare. Sourcing new, or good quality rag slate is getting increasingly difficult. The Conservation Officer and Historic England will expect the rag slates to be salvaged, cleaned and reused, if at all possible". There is a possibility that we may be able to access a grant from Historic England.

After some further discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Wills, seconded by Cllr Mrs Fuery and agreed unanimously to move forward and, in the first instance, arrange a pre-application meeting with the Conservation Officer and Historic England to explain the situation.

18/21 **Problems in Recreation Ground:**

Cllr Wills gave an update on happenings in the Recreation Ground. It now appears that on Friday and Saturday evenings, youngsters congregate, and drink, presumably alcohol, in the Open Shelter. The Police are aware of the situation, and will monitor it as and when they can.

19/21 **Nanswhyden Footpath Bridge:**

Cllr Wills spoke about the state of the wooden footpath bridge at Nanswhyden. The footpath is in two parishes – St Columb Major and Colan. The wooden footbridge is disintegrating and needs replacing. It is possible that Cornwall Council will reinstate. They are proposing to make this footpath into a Bridal Path. If Cornwall Council do not pay for the renewal of the footbridge, then both Councils will have to pay 50% each.

20/21 **Donation Request from Women's Centre Cornwall:**

The Town Clerk advised that we have received a donation request from Women's Centre Cornwall.

Cllr Mrs Fuery proposed, Cllr Allen seconded, and it was RESOLVED unanimously to make a £100 donation to the Women's Centre Cornwall.

21/21 **Correspondence:**

The following items of correspondence had been received:

a) e-mail from Mrs Clewes regarding problems of cars mounting the pavement in Fore Street. Could speed humps be provided? Could traffic lights be installed? Could a one-way system be operated? The Town Council had a feasibility study carried out about two and a half years ago when all these proposals were put forward. The answers were no to the speed humps (now not recommended), no to traffic lights and roads too narrow to operate a one-way system. It was wondered whether a 20 mph speed limit could be imposed on Fore Street – "Twenty is plenty". We will take the matter up with County Highways.
b) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 11.12 20
c) Cornwall Council Supplier Update – 14.12.20
d) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 update – 18.12.20
e) Town and Parish Council Highways and Environmental Update – 21.12.20
f) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 08.01.21
g) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 15.01.21

h) Town and Parish Council COV ID-19 Update – 22.01.21
i) Parish Online Newsletter – Welcome Back – 22.01.21
j) Cornwall Council Supplier Update – 27.01.21
k) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 29.01.21
l) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 05.02.21
m) Town and Parish Council Highways and Environment Update – 10.02.21
n) Planning News for Local Councils and Agents – Winter 2021 Newsletter
o) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 12.02.21
p) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 19.02.21
q) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 26.02.21
r) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 05.03.21
s) Town and Parish Council COVID-19 Update – 12.03.21
t) European Sites Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Adoption Draft – 26.03.21
u) Town and Parish Council Newsletter – 26.03.21
v) Town and Parish Council Newsletter – 07.05.21
w) Town and Parish Council Newsletter – 23.04.21

22/21 **Any Other Business:**

a) Cllr Mrs Warner wondered what the latest position was regarding Majorsteps and their move to Tropicana. It appears that there is still a lot of work to be undertaken at Tropicana. We will enquire from Majorsteps regarding a time-line.
b) Cllr Mrs Warner would like a visit to the Youth Club. This will be arranged. The Town Clerk advised that recent roof leaks at the Youth Club have been repaired.
c) Cllr Mrs Warner spoke about the wall at Station Road and whether it had yet been painted. The answer was that it has now been cleaned and is looking a lot better.
d) Cllr Mrs Warner was concerned about a blue bin which has appeared next to our planter outside the Town Hall. It appears that it belongs to someone in The Flats. It will be moved back to the Flats area.
e) Cllr Mrs Warner expressed concern regarding the number of cars that are now parking down Bridge Hill.
f) Cllr Mrs Warner asked if Funeral Directors could again be advised that our Cemetery Chapels are available for services.
g) Cllr Mrs Warner expressed concern about the cutting down of the trees on the boundary hedge of the Allotments. More trees should be planted. Cllr Whetter advised that as far as Allotment Holders are concerned the removal of the trees has been a great advantage.
h) Cllr Mrs Fuery advised that a van is constantly parking in Halveor Close and, basically, causing an obstruction.

i) Cllr Mrs Fuery advised that there used to be a wooden seat by the entrance to the Rec. from the Chip Shop entrance. We will reinstate.
j) Cllr Mrs McLeod wondered what was happening regarding the Smallseum. Cllr Wills gave an update.
k) Cllr Mrs Jiggins asked about the tidying up around the trees opposite Co-op. The matter will be investigated.
l) Cllr Taylor spoke about car charges, and, in particular, electric charge points. The matter is being looked into.
m) Cllr Allen spoke about play equipment at The Hurlings. We are waiting for a price to replace the slide. Cllr Wills suggested that a Working Party be set up to look into revamping The Hurlings and Carloggas Grove. The Working Party will consist of Cllrs Mrs Warner, Allen and Whetter.
n) The Town Clerk advised Councillors that there are currently five vacancies on the Town Council.
o) The Town Clerk advised that we are still waiting for last year's audit from the External Auditor. A member of the public made complaints about the Council's finances and PKF Littlejohns had to investigate. Additional documentation was requested, which we have supplied. This year's Audit is just about ready to be finalized.
p) The Town Clerk advised that under the terms of the Lease with Wesley Place (St Columb) Limited, the rent has been increased in accordance with the retail price index prevailing on 1st January. The increase comes into force from the quarterly payment due on 25th June 2021. The revised annual rate will be £13,035 per annum.
q) The Town Clerk advised that grants were agreed with Grantscape (Denzell Downs Wind Farm Community Panel) this morning. The Mayor advised of the grants made to the successful organisations.

23/21 **Date of Next Full Council Meeting:**

The date of the next Full Council Meeting is now scheduled to take place on 1st June 2021.

The Meeting ended at 8.35pm

Dated: 1st June 2021 Signed: