

MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING of the St. BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held at the **ST BLAZEY COMMUNITY ROOMS, STATION ROAD, St. Blazey**
on Thursday, 30th **May** 2019 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors:

J. Anderson	R Taylor
R Chamberlain	T Chapman
J. Moore	K Simms
J Taylor	

In Attendance: Cornwall Councillor Jordan Rowse
Cornwall Councillor Pauline Giles
Town Clerk
Dave Pearce

APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Ford, Nethercott and Pearce.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 31st May 2018, were taken as read, confirmed as being a true record of the meeting, proposed by Councillor R Taylor and seconded by Councillor K Simms, carried UNANIMOUSLY and later signed by the Chairman.

REPORT TO ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL BY CORNWALL COUNCILLOR PAULINE GILES

This time last year, the StARR project was up against it, with some of the landowners unhappy with their land being used as part of the overall scheme. Fast forward to now, and many of the issues have been ironed out and the project forges ahead, with funding in place.

Flood alleviation for low lying areas and improvements to the tow path leading from St Blazey to Par will mean better access for wheelchairs and pushchairs. Discussion is now underway about what other facilities could be incorporated to make a difference to the people of the area.

The Polgrean development has taken a huge leap in the last 12 months. Plans are now ready for submission. 60 new properties will be built including a special OAP block incorporating new technology, to make life that little bit easier for our elderly residents.

Looking back at my report in 2018, I have to admit, I am angry that Cornwall still has a housing issue. Millions of pounds of the rate payer's money, is being spent on housing families in B&Bs, and, as the summer season comes upon us, many will be moved out of county, which is unacceptable. I and a few other Councillors fought to have container homes, which would have given us a permanent short term solution for families, given us flexibility to move them around the county as the need required and provided stability for all.

Cornwall Council were too slow to act, to save the loss of IsoSpaces from St Blazey losing many jobs. The company manufacture container homes, and have relocated to Kent, where the Council are delighted to have them, and have put in orders for their speedy solution to homelessness. Not only did St Blazey lose jobs, it also lost the 60 jobs the business created due to their ever filling order book. It makes me so angry at the total lack of vision, especially as it has affected my division greatly.

I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the people of St Blazey on Remembrance Sunday, we were blessed with dry weather for once.

St Blazey Recycle Reuse Resale CIC has now moved premises and are situated behind the old shop, through the green gates. It is lovely to see the shop grow, and become a hub for the St Blazey residents.

An EU bid for funding has been submitted and we will hopefully start putting the new kitchen in during August, ready for the Cookery classes to start in September. I am currently on teacher training to deliver classes to NVQ level, offering many of our residents an opportunity to gain employment.

We are delighted to have saved a whopping 100 tonnes of household goods from going to landfill and incineration, and humbled at how many families we have been able to help improve their wellbeing.

It is hoped to secure future funding, to install a mezzanine level within the shop, with a variety of uses from upcycling workshops, an indoor cinema venue and general meeting place for people in our community.

REPORT TO ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL BY CORNWALL COUNCILLOR JORDAN ROWSE

May marks two years since I was elected as the Cornwall Councillor for the Par, Biscovey and St Blazey Gate. Over the past year, since my last report, I have continued to do all that I can for our area; trying to make the area a better place to live, work and grow up in.

Last year I was told by Cornwall Council, find an alternative home for Par Library or lose it. I was delighted therefore to have been able to have secured, from Wainhomes, one of their marketing suites which they have kindly agreed to donate to the community for this use. The library is now over at Park Track, in a portacabin. Par Track Ltd kindly agreed to house and run the new library and it is going from strength to strength, run by volunteers for the community. Keeping the library open was something that was very important to me, and something that I was determined to do.

The current beach huts at Par Beach, although not in my area, are all in a pretty poor condition. As Chair of the Par Beach Management Group I have been working on, delivering some brand new beach huts for the beach. I was delighted to confirm last year that we will have 22 new, colourful beach huts in place for this summer. I am hopeful that the beach huts will be completed and in place by July. This will be for daily and annual lease, and will be a fabulous addition to the beach.

I have also been working with the support of the Par Beach Management Group, on creating better 'access for all' at Par Beach. This summer a new access path will be put in through the dunes which will be two meters wide and will allow a lot greater access, for all. This again, will be huge for the local community. Despite not being in the parish, a huge amount of those who live in St Blazey do use the beach.

At County Hall I sit on both the Electoral Review Panel (ERP) and the Cornish Minority Status Working Group. The ERP has now began the process of the Community Governance Review which will review the town and parish councils in Cornwall. The town and parish councils do a huge amount of work, unpaid, to ensure their local communities continue to thrive. This review is to ensure they are working as efficiently and effectively as they should be and ensures that they are reflective of the identity and interests of local communities they represent. As for the Minority Status Working Group, we continue the fight against the Office for National Statistics to ensure that people can identify as 'Cornish' from a tick box at the next national census in 2021.

The STARR project really is in full flow, we have the majority of the £36 million in place. Cornwall Council and the Environment Agency are currently reviewing the survey results and I look forward to seeing the project develop even further over the next twelve months.

Concerns were raised with me last year about anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Biscovey. I therefore led a team out on to the streets of Biscovey to knock on doors to hear first hand, from the local residents, what the issues are. The team continues to look closely at ASB in Biscovey and are currently working on a number of proposals which we hope to see implemented later this year.

I trust this gives a brief overview of the hard work I put in to make this community a better place to live, work and grow up in.

POLICE REPORT

The police failed to attend the meeting.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I would like to thank the Town Councillors for their work over the last twelve months. We welcomed two new Councillors this year, Amy Pearce in July and Tamsin Chapman in August, taking the vacant seat of retiring Councillors Stuart Wheeler and George Allen. I would also like to thank our Cornwall Councillors Pauline Giles and Jordan Rowse.

Our Community Warden Dave Pearce is a great asset to St Blazey, the town always looks clean and tidy due to his hard work. Dave looked after the planters and flower beds all last summer, which I know many of you enjoyed as the Town Council have received many compliments for them. I am looking forward to seeing this year's display.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our plant sponsors, Archie Taylor from the Bridal Sweet and Trevor Pogue, a resident from Station Road. I would also like to thank Archie Taylor for helping to keep Fore Street looking presentable.

Thanks must go to John Gronwalt for all the work he puts in making St Blazey a better place. He litter picks, locks and unlocks the Station Road public conveniences 365 days a year, and helps Dave regularly. He also helps with the putting up and decoration of the two Town Christmas Trees.

Extra duties have been given to Dave Pearce, as we have had King Edward Gardens devolved to us and Cornwall Council have stopped maintaining Trail Blayser Park.

After King Edward Gardens became our responsibility a lot of work has been carried out to open the area up to allow in more light and I know a lot of people are enjoying the area more.

Trail Blayser Park needs a lot of work even although Cornwall Council were persuaded to bring the safety surfaces up to standard. The grass has been cut and the play equipment cleaned and we are in the process of purchasing some new items.

The public conveniences in Station Road have also been refurbished and now have new hygiene equipment, the flooring has been replaced and they have been decorated inside and out.

The Town council laid a poppy wreath at St Blazey Church on remembrance Sunday on behalf of the residents.

The Christmas trees at the two churches, either end of the town, which the Council provided looked great as ever, however we would appreciate more help in the future.

We had the Annual Carol Concert at St Blazey Church on Sunday 3rd December at 4.00 pm followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies. Thanks go to the Church for allowing us to do this. It was well attended and everybody enjoyed the performances by Mount Charles Band.

Ocean Housing have embarked on a scheme to regenerate Polgrean Place, this project will take 5 years and will improve the area greatly.

I am very disappointed that the police are not using the space in the community rooms that St Blaise Town Council have provided for them. We are informed that the police are now deployed from St Austell when necessary.

I was considering giving up my position as Mayor/Chairman of the Council this May after 18 years but remain a Councillor. However we have two projects which are due to come to fruition this coming year. The first being the extension at the Burrows and the second being the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan continues to make progress and will be scrutinised before going to public consultation in the near future, so I would like to give special thanks to Councillor Jenny Moore for all the very hard work she has put in.

Another exciting scheme that has funding for our town is the StARR project. This will see flood amelioration work throughout St Blazey and the surrounding area. I am looking forward to seeing these improvements once the project begins.

This year's Big Lunch Fest will be held at Par Running Track on Sunday 9th June. I hope to see some of you then.

Lastly my thanks must go to our Town Clerk, Gaynor for all her work over the year. We strive to better.

Meeting closed at 7.15 pm.