

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held at the ALEXANDER HALL, St Blazey, on Thursday 24th February 2011**

Present

Councillor J Anderson – Chairperson
Councillor A Seel- Vice Chairperson

Councillors:

G Allen, M Gill, D Goddard, R Heyward, D Hooper, G Miller, A Putt & D Scrafton

In attendance: Town Clerk

Cornwall Councillor David Hughes

1 member of the press

Charles Richards

1102/03 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Taylor.

1102/04 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 27th January 2011 were confirmed as being correct and later signed by the Chairperson.

1102/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on items on the Agenda or of gifts of a value greater than £25.

1102/06 MATTERS ARISING

1010/18 A reply has been received from Steve Gilbert MP regarding our concerns that the new estate at Par Lane could exacerbate flooding problems in the future. He forwarded us a letter he had received from Tom Flanagan informing him that water management solutions will be satisfactory.

1101/14 Champagne Cornwall Chorus have written thanking us for our donation we gave for performing at the Carol Concert in December, they will use the money toward their travel costs to take part in the UK Barbershop Convention.

1101/14 St Blazey AFC have written confirming the booking for the 2011 Carol Concert, the charge will be £75.00.

1102/07 **POLICE CRIME FIGURES**

January 2011

Assault	5
Burglary Dwelling	1
Burglary Other	4
Theft of M/V	1
Vehicle Crime	2
Theft	4
Drugs	2
Other	3
	=====
Total	22

1102/08 **A REPORT FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR DAVID HUGHES.**

Councillor Hughes thanked the Councillors that attended the consultation event at Par Beach, a great deal of excellent feedback was received and another event is to be arranged with answers to some of the questions asked.

Many of the attendees asked about the café which is not fit for purpose. The student architects from Plymouth University have been given a project to design a building for the site and the three deemed best are to get costing and funding information. A mobile café will be in place for 1 year.

There are to be no library closures for 2011/2012, staff are cutting their hours in an effort to prevent this, once a facility is lost it will not be reinstated. Councillor Hughes has spoken with Sue Benjamin and they are to look at the possibility of a library for St Blazey, Eco-bos should be approached to see if this could be incorporated into their plans.

Councillor Hughes emphasized the importance of us answering the consultation on the core strategy and said that Cornwall Council are keen to hear our views and that these will be taken into account.

Councillor Hughes is looking into the loss of parking in Par Lane due to the new development.

1102/09 **FLOODING ISSUES IN ST BLAZEY**

Charles Richards informed the Council that The Par and St Blazey Community Flood Group has been invited to take part in the Environment Agency's Watermark exercise on the 14th of March. The exercise will simulate a flood event in the area and test the Environment Agency's emergency plans. A small number of our volunteer flood wardens will be involved at locations in St Blazey and Par.

The community flood plan is moving ahead but will not be activated or mobilise the flood wardens until adequate safety training, risk assessments and insurance are in place, hopefully by middle of April.

Martin Eddy is establishing a steering group, with some executive powers, in the local area for flood matters. The group will include representatives from Cornwall Council, Highways, the EA, local Town and Parish Councils and community flood groups.

Andrew Houghton from the Environment Agency is to recommend in his report that Cornwall Council should arrange for the location of drains to be marked on adjacent walls within the flood zones to speed up the process of finding them when submerged. He is recommending that a single plan be drawn up detailing the ownership of watercourses within the area and accepts that better warnings need to be given for surface runoff and is considering using St Blazey as a trial area for the development of a new scheme.

Cornwall Council Planning Department are to appoint an internal team to look into flooding issues and investigations are being made to pay for insurance for flood wardens. The pump in Piggy Alley is only there to take away water to prevent further damage to the underground culvert not to assist with flooding.

Andrew Houghton is in the process of applying for funding to help support individual households in flood prone areas to purchase flood protection measures and wishes to remind everyone that they are working on their report into the cause of the flooding in November and what steps they are going to take.

Many residents of St Blazey are experiencing problems with their insurance claims in progressing with the work required to restore their homes. Charles Richards has been working with households in Aberdeen Close to meet with their Insurance loss adjusters. He sees there is a role to be played by our community flood group and the Town Council to ensure our residents and neighbours are treated fairly.

1102/10 **ROSPA**

Councillor Miller asked the Town Council to consider sponsoring the ROSPA driving course for youths in St Blazey. The cost of the Course is £60 and is designed to improve driving skills. The Clerk does not believe that we have the legal power to do this. The Clerk will investigate.

1102/11 **FOOTPATH AT THE MOUNT.**

The supporting wall of the footpath at the Mount is in serious need of repair, the top section needs immediate attention and the bottom section will do so soon. The Clerk has received a quote for £460 for the top section and £1390 for the bottom section. Councillor Putt proposed that both areas of work be carried out, Councillor Seel seconded, the council all agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

The Clerk will try to negotiate this figure down.

1102/12 **ST BLAZEY WALKABOUT**

The list below shows areas needing attention that were seen to be the responsibility of the Town Council and action taken to date.

Old Cemetary, Church Lane – Establish ownership of unused gates – The Clerk has reported that they belong to St Blazey Church.

The Planters at the end of Station Road – Planters to be tidied – This has been done.

Piggy Alley – Area of overgrown land – The area that is the responsibility of the Town Council has been tidied.

Sustrans footpath – Potholes to be filled – Reported that the area is the responsibility of Sustrans.

Play area (between the Football Club and Fourways skate park) – Litter bin to be provided. Litter and rubbish to be cleared from the leat. – Several bins have been installed but do not stay long, the football club have been asked to keep the field clear of rubbish. The Clerk reported the leat on 23rd February '11 and been assured it is due to be cleaned by Cornwall Council during the next fortnight.

Fourways Youth Centre car park – Restoration and possible relocation of bell tower- The Clerk will investigate ownership.

Town Council – Pot holes to be filled and New Signs needed- The Clerk has contacted Ben Dickinson from Highways to see what action can be taken.

Fountain – See Project list.

1102/13 **PAR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Councillor Hughes told the Council that the aim of the association was to build and reinforce a sense of community and urged that we encourage the group. Councillor Scrafton has attended meetings and said he believed that the association was worthwhile and would complement issues arising from the Town Plan. Councillor Scrafton was elected as the Council representative onto the Par Community Association.

1102/14 **COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME FUNDING**

The Clerk has received the 2010/11 invoice from Ocean Housing for the Warden Scheme. Councillor Putt proposed that the invoice be paid, Councillor Scrafton seconded, all the council agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

1102/15 **NEW COMMUNITY WARDEN**

Ocean Housing have offered and are in discussion with their solicitors to rent the warden office out to St Blaise Town Council for a rent of £1 per year, lease to be reviewed annually and notice terms to be agreed.

They have agreed to cover for the year Council Tax, Water & Electric if the scheme promotes that it is working in partnership with Ocean Housing, if this is not possible then the bill's would be liable from St Blaise Town Council.

The van will be donated to the Town Council, owner documents etc will be provided, all future maintenance cost will be with the council.

They will be handing over to the Council 3 Lawn mowers, 2 strimmer's, 1 blower and 1 bike although they are unsure of the condition of these. They will leave the desk, the chair, the kettle, cups and other kitchen equipment.

The 2 garages currently used by the wardens for storage will return to Ocean for letting.

We have received a number of applicants and it was agreed that any Council member wishing to attend, should meet at Alexander Hall at 1.00pm on Monday 28/2/11 to look through the applications. The interviews will take place from 1.00pm on Monday 7th March.

Councillor Putt proposed that we pay the new Warden £7.00per hour and give 5 weeks paid leave per annum, Councillor Heyward seconded and all the Council agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

It was agreed that the new warden would be given a years contract initially and they would work a probationary three months.

1102/16 DONATION REQUESTS

The Council has received the following requests:-

St Blazey Church has asked for a donation towards the cost of staging their community event which will run from August 4th to August 7th 2011, Councillor Scrafton proposed that a donation of £50.00 be given, seconded by Councillor Heyward, all the council agreed. St Blaise Town Council RESOLVED to give a donation of £50.00.

Cornwall Blind Association has asked for a donation towards the volunteer transport service for the blind and visually impaired in the local area. Councillor Goddard proposed that a donation of £100.00 be given, seconded by Councillor Allen, all the council agreed. St Blaise Town Council RESOLVED to give a donation of £100.00.

Cornwall Air Ambulance has asked for a donation towards their operation costs. Councillor Goddard proposed that a donation of £200.00 be given, seconded by Councillor Allen, all the council agreed. St Blaise Town Council RESOLVED to give a donation of £200.00.

1102/17 PROJECT LIST

New Community Centre – The Clerk has completed as much work as possible on the business plan that is necessary for the grant application until we have received quotes for the building work. Councillor Miller met with two of the contractors & Peter Hume on site earlier today to discuss the needs compatible with sustainability.

St Blazey Fountain – The Clerk has received possessory title for the Fountain, a Community Grant Fund application has been submitted to Cornwall Councillor Taylor for the restoration work.

1102/18 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk has received booklets relating to the Cornwall Core Strategy Consultation. All the Councillors have been given details regarding where to view them on line and the booklets will be passed around the each Council member. All the Councillors can reply individually but it will be an agenda item for March when a joint response will be formulated.

The Clerk attended the SLCC conference in Plymouth on 9th February where she was told of government plans to produce a register of land available for community use. The registers will be kept by the Local Authority and will not just record publicly owned land.

A talk was given on the “Big Society”; a Power of General Competence will be given to eligible or qualifying Council. The power reads; to give local authorities an explicit freedom to act in the best interest of their voters, unhindered by the absence of specific legislation supporting their action.

Once the “ Big Society” is introduced the current code of conduct will be obsolete and as a Council, we will have to adopt a new Voluntary Code of Conduct, a new Stronger Declaration of interest will be signed and each Council will appoint their own Monitoring Officer.

We were given a legal/employment update, from April 2011 employers will not be able to enforce retirement at the age of 65 and Town/Parish Councils will have to offer all employees entry into LGPS.

The Clerk attended The Meeting of The Larger Local Councils Committee on February 10th where she was told of the combination of the Cornwall Councils departments for transport, waste and environment into one. There is to be a new consultation on Grit Bins, Parish/Town Councils cannot be sued as we do not have a duty of care as we are not a highway authority. The Cabinet Scrutiny Panel will be reviewing the network panel in June 2011.

The Clerk attended the Local Council Planning Forum on 10th February, she was informed that Social Rent could be abolished in the future and a new pilot scheme was being put to Cabinet where an amount could be added to rent hence after 5 years occupants will have saved an amount to total a deposit on a home.

The Clerk attended the Cornwall Association of Local Councils AGM on Saturday 19th February where she was informed that Parish and Town Councils must consider safeguarding. Safeguarding is a responsibility that reaches across public service's, it applies to every organisation that provide services that involve children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Clerk attended The SLCC branch meeting on 21st February, SLCC are writing to Cornwall Council as they currently have no guidelines regarding Gypsy and Traveller sites, whenever advice is sought the enquirer is told that there are no revised guideline.

The Implementation Executive as part of the Unitary Authority guidelines wrote "Parish and Town Councils deemed in-effective will be abolished". This is causing worry as the Localism Bill only refers to Local Authorities and doesn't appear to consider Town and Parish Councils within Unitary authorities not having District Councils.

Last year Town & parish Councils were promised by Cornwall Council that we would all be written to with regard to winter maintenance, CALC was invited to comment, Town and Parish Councils were not.

The Clerk attended the Community Network Meeting yesterday, Jackie Bull suggested that we write to Cornwall Council about the 3.9% reduction in grants from government and thier advice to Councils not decrease supporting projects such as the Warden Scheme by more than 10%. Despite this Cornwall Councillors have decided to cut these grants by 40%. The Council agreed that this letter should be written.

1102/19 PLANNING MATTERS

There have been three applications received. It was RESOLVED to not object to any of them.

PA11/00010 Full Planning
Extension and Alterations.
Britannia Inn, St Austell Road
St Blazey Gate

PA11/00011 Listed Building Consent
Extension and Alterations.
Britannia Inn, St Austell Road
St Blazey Gate

PA11/00377 Full Planning
Alterations to create balcony.
Orchards, Biscovey Road.
St Blazey Gate

Planning Application results received.

PA10/06059 Full Planning – Division of Shop.
Par General Stores, Harbour Road.
CONDITIONAL PERMISSION GRANTED

PA10/07658 Full Planning – Erection of Bungalow.
Land at Kay Marie, St Austell Road.
CONDITIONAL PERMISSION GRANTED

PA10/07684 Full Planning – Part demolition of existing building & construct
extension and additional vehicle access.
47 Trenovissick Road
CONDITIONAL PERMISSION GRANTED

PA11/00047 Full Planning – Sunroom Extension.
Trenovissick Farm, Road from Lamellyn to Bayview.
CONDITIONAL PERMISSION GRANTED

1102/20 ALEXANDER HALL

The Clerk asked the Councillors whether they wanted to keep the keys to Alexander Hall, it was agreed that each Councillor would keep their keys as long as they are a council member.

The Clerk has asked that a timer light be put onto the front of Alexander Hall as the Co-Op will not extend the lighting in the Car Park, the lights are turned off at 9.15pm. The Council agreed that a light should be put in place.

1102/21 ACCOUNTS

Income			
Hall Bookings	564.00	Broadband	26.14
Interest	(0.13) 1/11	SWW	55.00
J Foyet	100.00 1/11	Electricity	38.00
		HMRC	267.70
		CC (pen)	327.41
		Cleaner	72.00
		Clerks Sal	974.03
		Scribe 2000	234.00
		SLCC	78.00
		BT	53.62
		British Gas	458.69
		N Retallack	360.00
		CALC	78.00
	=====		=====
	443.87		3022.59

The council RESOLVED to accept the accounts submitted.

1102/22**TOWN BUSINESS**

Councillor Heyward told the Council that due to the flooding, the community turbine at Pons Mill has lost £24,000 in revenue.

Councillor Scrafton attended a Big Local / Big Lottery meeting in Exeter where he had met the three other representatives from the areas in the South West to receive Big Local funding. He was pleased to report that the Par/St Blazey steering group were as well ahead with their plans as any of the others.

Councillor Scrafton asked that the Council start producing a Newsletter at the end of this financial year, the Council must provide at least four quarterly newsletters to be considered for Quality Status. Quality Status is one the goals to achieve for St Blaise Town Council.

Councillor Goddard asked if the Council could but an Excel spreadsheet of local business's to help with the Town Plan needs. The Council agreed.

Councillor Putt told the Council that the last meeting of Polgrean Residents Association will take place in early March, Hands Together will be the new residents association replacing the three former ones.

Councillor Hooper reported that St Blazey Community Watch appeared to be revitalised as there had been good attendance at the meeting last week.

Councillor Gill has been approached by a group of residents from St Blazey Gate who have expressed their deep concern over the Bus Stop on the A390 which was sited opposite the BP garage, has been moved about 25 metres towards St Austell, it is now sited exactly in line with the pedestrian crossing bollards. When busses stop there, no vehicles can pass because of the traffic island, this will also hinder the passage of any emergency vehicles, it also totally obstructs any pedestrians crossing the busy main road. The Clerk will report this to the relevant parties.

Councillor Allen asked if we had heard back from Network Rail regarding the overgrowth in St Blazey Road, the Clerk hasn't received a reply and will report this again.

Councillor Allen asked if the no parking at the bottom of the Mount is likely to happen anytime soon, The Clerk will ask Councillor Taylor.

1102/23**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be 31st March 2011 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.29pm.