

**MINUTES of the MEETING of the ST BLAISE TOWN COUNCIL
Held at the ST BLAZEY COMMUNITY ROOMS, Station Road, St Blazey, on
Thursday 26th September 2019.**

Present

Councillor J Anderson – Mayor

Councillors

R Chamberlain, T Chapman (late), J Moore, T Nethercott, A Pearce, K Simms & J Taylor.

In attendance: Town Clerk
Community Warden
Cornwall Councillor P Giles
4 Residents

1909/01 **TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from St Blaise Town Councillor R Taylor and Cornwall Councillor J Rowse.

1909/02 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 29th August 2019 were confirmed as being correct and later signed by the Chairperson.

1909/03 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

1909/04 **MATTERS ARISING**

1908/08 Councillor Nethercott reported that at the extraordinary Network Panel meeting, all Town and Parish Councils who attended, voted NOT to purchase a Mobile Speed Activation Sign, and it was agreed to split the £50,000 Highways Scheme equally between the 5 Cornwall Councillors.

1907/08 The Clerk was asked if a meeting with the company who install Electric Car chargers had been arranged, the Clerk replied that she had seen in the notes from the Waste and Recycling Committee that it was something Councillor R Taylor was doing so would be liaising with him.

1909/05 **COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

Dave has been watering the flower beds, cutting grass in King Edward Gardens, Trail Blayser Park and Doubletrees Court, maintaining footpaths and weed killing.

Dave has met with the Cormac operative whilst they carried out the quarterly play inspection in Trail Blayser Park who was very helpful. Three issues were highlighted, the shackles on the swings need to be changed, the metal work at the top of the junior MPU needs the rust removing and re-painted with lead free paint and the seats need painting with same paint. He did complement Dave on the work that had been carried out since his last visit.

1909/06 **REPORT FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR PAULINE GILES**

There has been a great deal of activity after the publication of the proposed two Highway Schemes proposed by the Town Council for the previous year's budget. I have received an objection from a resident on Old Roselyon and one from Lamb Park regarding the proposed yellow lines opposite Mountlea housing estate.

Whilst he is upset about the lines, he has asked that some form of traffic calming be considered, to slow down the traffic when there are no parked cars to slow up the speed of traffic on the junction. This might be something for the Town Council to consider with this year's Highways budget.

It's National Recycling Week, so today St Blazey Recycle Reuse held an event involving Suez, Clean Cornwall and Cornwall Council. Suez ran a Bin it/Recycle it/Compost it game, engaging the public allowing them to decide which household item went into which receptacle. Many were surprised!

St Blazey Recycle now have a set of pickers, which residents or local organisations can borrow. If you are interested in running a street clean, you can register it at CleanCornwall.org stating the date of the pick and where you want the bags of rubbish picked up from, free of charge. I am hoping St Blazey residents will embrace this.

For those whose recycling bags are on their last legs, you can collect new ones from the St Austell One Stop or register online to have them delivered to you. The huge seagull sack is available for purchase at £3.50 and will take more than one black bag. These bags are also available from the Town Council Office.

If you fancy having a go at composting your food waste, a compost bin can be purchased from £18.50, there is currently a buy one, get one half price offer with a one off delivery charge of £5.99.

It is important to note, that Cornwall Council DO NOT have a non-food composting facility, therefore packaging stated as compostable should be put in your general waste, black bag.

Work on the community kitchen/cafe at St Blazey Recycle Reuse is slow and it is now looking like it will be November before everything is up and running.

1909/07 **REPORT FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR JORDAN ROWSE**

This month I welcomed the positive news that Par and St Blazey are set to benefit from an additional £7.8 million cash injection to reduce the risk of flooding in the area

as part of the STARR Project. The latest ERDF funds complement additional funding already secured for the project meaning that approximately £32m of investment has now been secured for flood mitigation schemes in the area.

Many will have seen over the past few weeks the two-way traffic lights and today the road closure on Par Moor Road. The reason for the roadworks is to upgrade the drainage system. This is good news and needed to be done.

At the beginning of the month I went to County Hall for Full Council. One item on the agenda I was particularly pleased to vote against was the motion to allow councilors to vote remotely. Debate in the chamber is healthy and I often decide how I'm going to vote by listening to other views in the Council Chamber. I was delighted that the motion was lost by 41 votes to 40, common sense prevailed.

Last week Cllr Anderson and I attended the Friends of the Atlantic Coast Line meeting, which represents the rail branch line from Par to Newquay. We had a really interesting meeting and I raised two particular issues that we have with the branch line and at Par Station.

1) Par Train Station is not accessible for those with additional needs, or for parents with prams. Par Station must be considered for an upgrade and needs to be more accessible so that more people can use the train. We are so lucky to have this branch line, but it is just not used enough.

2) I find it unbelievable that Newquay is the surfing capital of the UK, but you are not allowed surfboards on the new trains. We need to get more people stopping at Par, spending time here, and then getting them on the branch line to visit Newquay. Its importance is huge, but it seems it has been forgotten for far too long. Time to change that.

Earlier this year I announced my intention to restore the WWII pillbox at Spit Beach and asked for suggestions. It cannot be kept in its current state. After discussions with Imerys, PL24 Community Association and Par Old Cornwall Society, it is considered to be a site of great interest and local importance given its role in WWII. I believe that I have found a suitable solution for the pillbox at Spit and, once restored, it really will be a great improvement.

I would like to see it as an open, enjoyable area with plenty of seating to take in and appreciate the views, and some information boards to educate visitors to the beach. In an ideal world, I would like three information boards. One about the history of the pillbox and the role that it, and Par, played in the Second World War. Another, for the children visiting the beach, would be an information board about what you can find in the rock pools of Spit. The final information board could include information for local bird watchers. So something for everyone. Next year is the 75th anniversary or the end of WWII so I am keen that, whatever happens, the pillbox is restored by then.

Recently I saw an article on Cornwall Live and in the Cornish Guardian about the employment boom in St Blazey. The story was played as a mystery and comments from town councilors echoed this.

This is excellent news! This doesn't surprise me because we have the likes of Eden and IMERYYS in St Blazey who employ a significant amount of local people. On top of this, there is a huge amount of small businesses and self-employed tradesmen and women who live in St Blazey, who I will add are very successful. St Blazey is not a tiny town, despite the paper's claim. Yes there is deprivation, but these figures show people are working hard to change that. St Blazey is a thriving town and this spike in employment figures just shows the confidence in the area and reinforces my statement that Par and St Blazey really is the place to be. Good on you, people of St Blazey.

1909/08 **PETER HUME TO TALK ABOUT THE STARR PROJECT**

Peter Hume told the Councillors that local landowners and residents have been asking questions of The Environment Agency and Cornwall Council as to why they would want to remove up to 13 million gallons of existing flood water storage on the land to the north of Aberdeen Close and Rebecca Close and the only answer received to date is the Environment Agencies desire to connect the Par River at St. Blazey into its natural flood plain.

The land to the North of Aberdeen Close and to the west of the Par River has an existing flood plain capacity in excess of 13 million gallons and given that the biggest threat to ST. Blazey in a major rainfall event would be the overtopping of the Par River it is vital that all existing flood storage capacity is protected. Currently when the Par River level rises the water is taken out to sea, but when it gets dangerously high then the water should be allowed to overtop into the existing flood plain north of the A390 thereby reducing the flow in the Par River and protecting Aberdeen Close, Rebecca Close and Station Road from flooding, this land is natural flood attenuation.

This existing situation needs to be judged against the STARR project proposal which is to remove a large section of the existing flood embankment for its full height and permanently flood the flood plain to the north of the A390 removing between 5 million and 13 million gallons of flood storage depending on the level of the Par River. The water in the newly created wetland area would then rise and fall with the Par River and in an extreme rainfall event the existing attenuation would not be available for the flood storage as it would already be full of water that under existing conditions would be safely out at sea. This can only result in the rising flood water overtopping the banks of the Par River further downstream at Aberdeen Close and the flood plain to the south of the A390.

The Council will address these issues with the Project Co-ordinators.

1909/09 **THE FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF DOUBLETREES COURT**

Three residents from Doubletrees Court asked if we would continue with the grass cutting of their Green for another year. Councillor J Moore proposed that we renew

the arrangement for the year at the same cost as last year, Councillor Nethercott seconded the proposal, all the Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

Councillor Chapman entered the meeting.

1909/10 **IMPLICATIONS OF CORNWALL COUNCIL CUTS AND LOCALISM**

The Clerk told the Council that there is a very interesting article in the September Clerk magazine. Of the 59 Town Parish Councils with the highest precepts country wide, 12 are in Cornwall. The Clerk is wondering why this is as the rest of the country are having the same government cuts and the higher authorities also have their increases capped.

1909/11 **CLIMATE EMERGENCY PROPOSALS**

Councillors Simms, Chamberlain, Moore and R Taylor met on September 3rd and as a result asked the Clerk to obtain quotes for council recycling collection and suitable bins for premises. The figures are for two weekly collections of rubbish £10.22 plus vat and recycling £9.41 per fortnight. As we do not currently pay for rubbish removal and the Clerk takes home the recycling, Councillors agreed this was an unviable cost.

The committee also discussed changing all our premises to a renewable energy supplier as energy contracts cease. The clerk was asked for the dates that our contracts expire, all our contracts expire December 2020.

It was suggested to take a Recycling Table to Events. Clearly show the public what can and can't be recycled. After the meeting Councillor R Taylor contacted Esther O'Bearagh, The Team Leader of the Waste and Recycling Community Engagement Team with the intention to stage some kind of event with the objective of raising awareness and knowledge of the effects and dangers of climate change as well as means to mitigate them. Esther has said that she will be launching a new Cornwall Recycles Campaign in the near future so will be in touch!

Councillor Taylor also researched the cost of having solar panels installed at the Community Rooms and found that there are no grants for solar panels available in the UK. The government used to provide interest-free loans and grants as part of the Green Deal, but this concluded in 2015. The Feed-in Tariff also came to an end in April 2019, but the new Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) is on the way, starting in January 2020.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) will pass into law this week. It will guarantee that people installing new solar panels at their home or business will receive a payment for exporting electricity to the grid from the start of next year.

Energy suppliers with over 150,000 customers will be obliged to offer an export tariff to small-scale electricity generators (homes and small businesses) for each unit of electricity they sell to the grid, as measured by their smart meter. This is a programme for new generators of clean energy: the Smart Export Guarantee doesn't apply to

those benefitting from the earlier Feed-in Tariff scheme. Energy suppliers will have to have their SEG tariffs in place at the latest by the end of this year.

Small-scale electricity generators who will be able to benefit from the SEG include householders and small businesses who have solar photovoltaic (PV) panels or wind turbines, hydroelectric and anaerobic systems of up to 5MW capacity and micro combined heat and power up to 50kW. To date, solar PV has been the massively dominant technology in this list, now fitted to over 7m UK homes.

Quotes for 4 kW domestic installation of solar PV in the range £4000 to £4500 installed. Systems with batteries to enable energy storage cost an additional £1000 to £2000.

Finally the committee would like a Budget from TC for 20/21 spending. The Clerk explained that all committee spending has to be agreed by the Town Council however if the committee agree a figure for 20/21 she will add it while writing the 20/21 budget.

1909/12 **COUNCIL 2019 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Council considered the 2019 Financial. Councillor J Taylor proposed that the council adopt the new regulations, Councillor Jenny Moore seconded the proposal, all the Councillors agreed and so it was RESOLVED.

1909/13 **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE BRITANNIA ROUNDABOUT**

Jenny Moore mentioned the Britannia roundabout to Creative Civic Change committee at Cornubia this is a funding strand PBBL have received and are administering. This was met with a good deal of enthusiasm, so Councillor Moore put together the following proposal (abridged):-

In recent years the Britannia roundabout has become much neglected. Maintenance lies with Cornwall Council and they are currently undertaking minimal work upon it, no doubt due to budget cuts. Neither St Blaise Town Council nor Carlyon Bay Parish Council (the roundabout is close to the border of both Councils) are allowed to undertake remedial action in terms of the appearance of the roundabout.

The roundabout is effectively the gateway to St Blazey and Par, heading east, and to St Austell heading west, the A390 being the second largest A road in Cornwall. The current neglected state of the roundabout does not create a favourable impression of this area, or this part of Cornwall. This has become more pressing recently, when it was announced that the Tour of Britain cycle tour will be in the area in September 2020 and passing the roundabout.

St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF) have included the roundabout in their plans for greening St Austell and the Clay Country (<https://gardenfestival.org/>) and there is a small sum allocated to do this. However, coupled with other initiatives happening in the area, such as StARR (<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/countryside/estuaries-rivers-and-wetlands/flood-risk/flood-risk-management-projects/st-austell-bay-resilient-regeneration-starr-project/>) there are

other possibilities to raise funding, so that significant and lasting improvements can be made to the roundabout.

As one of a small group of individuals, we have discussed what we would like to see in relation to the roundabout. We would like the roundabout to represent the area, but particularly St Blazey and Par. St Blazey has a rich industrial heritage, in engineering and mineral extraction, as well as being a centre of the China Clay industry, Par was major port for exporting china clay. Coupled with this is the maritime almost sub-tropical climate this area enjoys.

Our vision for the roundabout is granite monoliths, preferably coated in copper and tin, together with machinery and representations of the china clay industry. Planting would be species which represent the balmy climate, for example, palms (subject to advice from a horticultural organisation) and which require little maintenance. Together, this would create a spectacular gateway to St Blazey and Par.

This would be the long-term permanent view, there may have to be something of a more interim nature, to ensure that this is in place by September 2019. All contributors to the renovation would be acknowledged on the roundabout, which would mean reaching a significant audience each day.

As yet a response hasn't been received.

Councillor Moore had been in contact with Darren Hawkes, a landscape gardener involved with St Austell Greening, as he had already drafted some proposals. It is hoped that they will can meet up and talk soon. It looks as if improvements will be made.

1909/14 **PROJECT LIST**

New Community Centre/Burrows Centre –

Matt Dixon, Project Manager sent the following report:

Works are now complete with some very minor snagging issues outstanding. These will be dealt with in the next few days and unless anything else is discovered, the next inspection of the building with A D Williams will be in six months' time at the end of the remediation period. During this period 2.5% of the contract value is held by yourselves as retention. This safeguards you in the event of any defects.

The Cornwall Council Building Control officer has made six visits to site and has no concerns – works meet the required standard. We should receive our completion certificate shortly.

The Clerk told the Councilors that until the repair work to Happy Days is complete furnishings cannot be purchased and therefore the room is not officially open.

Neighbourhood Planning –

Councillor Jenny Moore has had a further meeting with Gemma Hankins summarised below:

We discussed pre submission consultation, which need not be as formal as I thought. St Blazey Football Club would seem the best venue for consultation, with a comments book to record and also an online mailbox to record comments.

We discussed policies which need amendment from the informal consultation responses, in particular with regard to trees and hedges, included in the open spaces policy. As to Open Spaces, all landowners should be informed, but responses not necessarily taken to alter the policy.

Timetable is as follows:

Vision and Objectives, feedback on questionnaire, communication to the community (the feedback will be summarised into a template which has been provided - Completed

Draft Plan – Completed

Screening – Completed

Feedback on screening – Completed

Plan Finalised – End of October

Pre-submission Consultation – November

Pre-submission Consultation responses – December

Submission - End January 2020 or early February 2020

If the pre submission consultation (6 weeks) runs in December, a week will need to be added on for the Christmas period. However, such things as Christmas or craft fairs can be useful as consultation venues.

1909/15 TOWN CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk received information that the High Street Clean up grants are still available and therefore re-applied. We have been refused however this time we have been given the reason that we don't have a High Street.

The Clerk asked the Council how she should treat the objection to the Highway Scheme and was told to reply that once the yellow lines are installed the roads affected would be monitored and if necessary further road calming measures would be considered.

The Clerk has received information from Liz Davis regarding the Holiday Lunch Club that ran from 30th July to 29th August and was run by volunteers. The sessions were run 4 days a week at St Blazey Church and Hands Together, the children numbers varied from 2 to 10 per session. The children were taught how to sew, make pizzas design and print T shirts and enjoyed many other activities.

The donation by the Town Council was spent on a food processor, 3 sets of Lego, art and craft items, board games, outdoor play equipment and a selection of storage boxes. Further expenses included a PAYG mobile phone and First Aid training for the helpers.

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, S.16A

Event: Eden Marathon - 13/10/2018

Date: 13th October 2019

Times: 09:30 to 10:10

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 S.14: Temporary Prohibition of Traffic

Location: Par Moor Road, Par

Timing: 1900 hours on 29th October 2019 to 0700 hours on 30th October 2019

1909/16 **PLANNING MATTERS**

There have been three planning application received and it was RESOLVED to not object to two of them:

PA19/07266 Works to trees subject to a TPO namely various works in the green area to the rear of 191-233 Manor View
191 Manor View
Par

PA19/07509 Extension to the north-east elevation of the dwelling
4 Pembroke Close
Par

It was RESOLVED to Object to:

PA19/06810 Proposed new dwelling
Land West of Little Trenovissick
The Mount
Par

Concerns regarding the mine shafts opening at Lesnewth and Lamellyn Road.

Results Received

PA18/10278 Conversion of dwelling house into 3 self-contained flats
2 Fore Street.
St Blazey
APPROVED

1909/17 **ALEXANDER HALL**

Bookings have picked up and the Clerk believes this is due to the end of the holiday season.

1909/18 **ST BLAZEY COMMUNITY ROOMS**

The Clerk has arranged with AD builders that the surfacing being used for the temporary footpath at Happy Days will be brought to the Community Rooms to fill the holes in the Car Park.

1909/19 **ACCOUNTS****Payments Received**

Hall Bookings	502.00
Interest	1.26
High Deposit Int	22.92
Com room Income	
Precept	43,750.00
CTS Grant	2,327.89

Expenditure

Clerks Wage	1489.91
Wardens Wage	637.00
Broadband	27.50
UK Fuels	71.00
Insurance	198.43
HMRC	617.91
CC (pen)	554.58
Donations	100.00
Huers	3,500.00
AD Williams	67,324.93
E Winterbottom	120.00
St Austell GM	201.42
Icon Web	185.00
Toolstation	49.98
Viking	59.96
Woollcott's	339.97
Eventbrite	15.00
SWW (foun)	11.00
TMS	5.20
Key Cutting	39.90
Stationery	10.97
<u>AH</u>	
CC Bus Rates	246.00
Cleaners Wage	54.10
Chubb (parts)	13.98
EDF (Elec)	76.00
SWW	74.00
EDF (Gas)	71.00

Co-op	13.00
<u>PC</u>	
CC Bus Rates	54.00
Locking	30.00
EDF	12.00
CIS	106.08
<u>Community Rooms</u>	
CC Bus Rates	102.00
EDF	64.00
Broadband	10.00

=====	=====
46,604.07	76,485.82

All the Councillors RESOLVED to accept the accounts submitted.

1909/20 TOWN BUSINESS

Councillor Moore told the Council that GrowStBlazey has received a substantial financial donation for environmental work, such as King Edward Gardens, Community Room gardens, StARR related environmental improvement works, and St Andrew's Wetlands.

Councillor Moore reported that StARR have now heard from the programme manager of the project who is keen to work on the key aspect of St Austell Resilient Regeneration funding, which is imaginative ways of addressing flood amelioration, through planting, landscaping etc. He has temporarily called this Community, Nature, and Environment.

Councillor Moore met with him, Tom Fletcher and Alison White (Tywardreath and Par NP) Wednesday afternoon. They are looking for a quick simple project, and have suggested turning the Community Rooms garden into a raingarden. This will be at no cost to the Council, and low maintenance (maintenance of these spaces to be explored at later meetings). This can then be used as an example of what can be achieved, to the community. The Council are asked to formally agree to this.

In addition to Claire Hurley, Amy Thurtle is joining the team – she and Claire both worked on the NP.

Councillor Moore attended a St Austell Bay Economic Forum meeting and reported:-

Highlights: St Austell branding was discussed, Geraint Richards from the Duchy suggested reforestation Cornwall and the issues involved. St Austell College discussed recent difficulties and will therefore be focussing on technical and vocational qualifications. Another discussion was as to why St Austell missed out on High Street funding and it was decided that a masterplan would have been helpful.

The spurious rise in employment figures for St Blazey was referred to as was the StARR project in relation to Community Nature Environment. Eden were represented by Dan James and it seems that Eden seem very firmly in the St Austell camp.

Councillor Moore suggested that Dan James should be invited to a Council meeting, to explore how Eden can work with the community in which Eden is based.

PART TWO – ITEMS OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE TO BE DEBATED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC as per Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

1909/21 **CO-OPTION OF A NEW TOWN COUNCILLOR**

1. To resolve to exclude the press and public for items of a confidential nature.

It was RESOLVED to exclude the press and public.

2. Co-option of Town Councillor.

After discussion it was RESOLVED to co-opt Adrian Seel to the Town Council.

1909/22 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on 31st October 2019 at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 pm.