

WADEBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting
held on Thursday 25 April 2019 at 6pm, Town Hall, Wadebridge

Present : Wadebridge Mayor, Cllr Philip Mitchell (Chair), 23 members of the public (parishioners and representatives of local groups), Cornwall Councillors Stephen Knightley (Wadebridge East) & Karen McHugh (from 6.09pm - Wadebridge West) and 10 Members from Wadebridge Town Council attending as parishioners (Robyn Harris, Louise Mitchell, Heather Cooper-Waite, Ian Welch, Mark Hollamby, Trevor Wiltshire, John Leach, Julia Fletcher (6.08pm), Leah Gliddon (from 6.30pm) and Eric Gill (from 6.47pm).

In attendance : Anne Minnis (Town Clerk) & Beverley Collins (Minutes).

The Mayor, Cllr Philip Mitchell opened the meeting and advised of evacuation routes in case of an emergency. There were no hazards to note.

ATM/19.1 Apologies had been received from Scott Mann MP who was attending a debate on school funding in Parliament.

ATM/19.2 Minutes – It was **RESOLVED** to agree the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held 26 April 2018. Minutes were signed by the Mayor. There were no matters arising.

ATM/19.3 Mayor's Annual Report – Cllr Mitchell gave a report outlining the past year.

ATM/19.4 Reports from organisations who have received grant funding in 2018/19 – Representatives from each of the following groups gave short presentations on grants awarded and talked about how the grant has assisted with specific projects. Copies of presentations (where available) are filed with the Minutes and are available from the Town Clerk's office for information.

- a. **Camel Community Supported Agriculture (Camel CSA)** – Charlotte Barry gave a presentation advising details of the group including work to reduce the existing food chain and promotion of local and seasonal produce.
- b. **Wadebridge Carnival Committee** – Robin Moorcroft introduced new committee members and gave a presentation regarding the 2019 carnival event. He thanked the Town Council for their support and the grant awarded (written report attached).
- c. **Time to Shine** - Helen Withhread gave a detailed report relating to the group and their past performances and workshops. She thanked the Town Council for the grant awarded which will help with future workshops. She noted that there are photographs on social media pages and advised that her contact details are available via the Town Clerk.
- d. **Cornwall Folk Festival, Wadebridge** - Lynette Rentoul, Artistic Director thanked the Town Council for the generous grant which supported activities in 2018. A detailed presentation and precis of the group was provided including the importance of grant funding which enables free and low-cost workshop and events to take place alongside the ticketed concert events.
- e. **AA Group** – John Leach gave a presentation on behalf of the group. The Town Council and staff were thanked for continuing the long-time working relationship with the group (written report attached).
- f. **More Harmony** – Sue gave a short presentation on behalf of the acapella group including details of the recent rebranding of the group which is due to an increase in membership. The group thank the Town Council for the grant awarded and Sue provided social media contact details.

ATM/19.5 Reports from Wadebridge Town Council –

- a. **Finance & General Purposes Committee (report filed with Minutes)** – Cllr Philip Mitchell, Chair of Committee, advised details of the committee's work over the past year including the financial impact of taking on the library facility from Cornwall Council.

- b. Planning Committee** – The Mayor read a written report which had been submitted by Cllr Amanda Pennington, Chair of Committee (report attached).

ATM/19.6 Report from Police – The Mayor advised that representation had been expected. A basic report submitted prior to the meeting is attached for information.

ATM/19.7 Parishioner's Questions (questions and written responses filed with Minutes) – One question had been submitted regarding traffic issues at the junction off West Hill into the retail park area. The Mayor read the question and passed this over to Cllr McHugh who has become involved.

Cllr McHugh advised the junction is not within Wadebridge Parish and she has passed this to Cornwall Councillor Steve Rushworth – update awaited. Cllr McHugh advised her response to the question and provided details of the process for a traffic regulation order.

The Mayor confirmed that St. Breock Parish Council has also been contacted as the junction in question is within St. Breock Parish. The response received from the Chair of the parish council was read (attached for information).

The Mayor advised the letter writer, who was present at the meeting, to consider contacting St. Breock Parish Council and suggested that the matter could also be raised at the Network Panel meeting.

Cllr McHugh provided information on options to implement changes to the junction.

A member of the public referred to the Neighbourhood Plan and proposed development at land off Trevanion Road which is now sold subject to contract. She asked if Wadebridge Town Council and Cornwall Council are still happy to oppose any proposed development on that land (previous proposal was rejected). The Mayor advised that, the current Neighbourhood Plan group had unanimously agreed that, in light of consultation responses, the land should not be developed and moving forward the plan will provide protection for the site. It is hoped that the plan will be submitted to Cornwall Council shortly and if it is supported by the community at the referendum stage then the land will be protected from development. Wadebridge Town Council continue to support residents.

Charlotte Barry raised the issue of climate change advising that Cornwall Council and several town and parish councils have declared this an emergency – she asked when would Wadebridge Town Council consider declaring a climate change emergency ?

The Mayor advised that the Town Council recognise this is an important issue but have not yet discussed this matter and suggested that a written request is submitted.

Cllr Knightley confirmed that he had passed on Charlotte Barry's message regarding this matter at the last Town Council meeting.

A member of the public raised concerns with empty shops in town asking why there were so many and was this due to high private rentals. The Mayor confirmed that the Town Council is concerned with this matter and the impact it has. It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce are also concerned and are looking to address the issues which include high business rates and a change in shopping habits. The advantages and disadvantages with the recent opening of a Costa coffee shop were referred to. It was suggested that a multi-agency approach to this issue may be an option.

Discussion led onto charity shops being permitted to sell new goods and the impact this has on the smaller independent traders. The Mayor advised that the Town Council has no remit to address this issue.

Cllr McHugh advised that she is aware there are business rate reprieves and that a charity shop has been investigated in relation to this matter. Whilst there appears to be a loop-hole with the sale of new goods anyone having concerns should discuss this with her.

The Mayor confirmed that whilst the Town Council has no control over the commercial aspect of the town the matter has been previously discussed with the Community Link Officer. He reiterated that the Chamber of Commerce are responsible for policing this issue and suggested the member of public attends the Chamber of Commerce meeting to raise their concerns.

A member of the Carnival Committee raised issues with event organisers not removing promotional posters and flyers from around town after their event – the Bikelights event was referred to as an example. It was asked if this matter could be fed back to Cornwall Council Street Works department.

The Mayor advised that the Enforcement Officer has been approached regarding this matter and for issues with other signage but the process is long and drawn out. The Town Council has been made aware that it is not permitted to remove any such signage, posters or flyers but it is looking at options to take on the authority for this.

Discussion took place around this issue and some of the points raised included :

- Some Mayors/Town Councils are taking the matter into their own hands.
- The responsibility for this should be devolved to the Town Council.
- Concerns that the procedure to enforce is very bureaucratic.
- Bikelights group have been contacted regarding removal of promotional material including bikes but there has been no response as yet.

Cllr Knightley referred to the Community Chest fund (£4,000) which both he and Cllr McHugh have available to local groups.

7.05pm, Cllr Knightley and two members of the public left the meeting.

Discussion returned to issues with signage.

A response was made to the concerns raised with flyposting – many groups and organisations promote their events with posters and flyers attached to street furniture. The 2018 Folk Festival was referred to, specifically the importance of promotion in order to sell tickets. The new promotional banners/flags on street furniture in Bodmin was highlighted as an alternative option – similar promotional opportunities are used in European towns.

There was discussion around whether this would work in Wadebridge including related costs and responsibility for signage removal after an event. It was questioned whether the Town Council could discuss details with Bodmin Town Council and look to work collaboratively with local groups to promote the town.

The Mayor thanked Cornwall Council for recent works to paint the street light columns in town and advised the following :

- The Town Council will be erect hanging baskets on some of the columns.
- The Bodmin banner project is a Cornwall Council initiative.
- Wadebridge Chamber of Commerce is looking at options to promote Wadebridge.
- The Town Council is looking at the devolution process - specifically ways to devolve powers to support Wadebridge.

Cllr McHugh referred to devolution briefly explaining the remit of the Network Area Panel and that future changes may enable more powers to become available.

A member of the public referred to the new development of food containers near the fire station and queried the two levels.

The Mayor advised that Cornwall Council had approved the application several years ago.

There was a brief discussion around concerns with the proposal and whether it is right for Wadebridge.

The Mayor advised that written reports relating to grant donations had been submitted prior to the meeting from the following groups (copies attached) :

- Golden Oldies Charity
- Bikelights
- Cornwall Hospice Care

The Mayor thanked all speakers and representatives for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.19pm.

Signed as a True and Accurate Account :

Chair :

Date :

DRAFT