



Wadebridge Town Council

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held remotely via Zoom On Thursday 25 March 2021 at 7pm

Present : Cllrs; A Batchelor, H Cooper-Waite, E Gill, L Gliddon, M Hollamby, J Leach, L Mitchell, P Mitchell (Mayor), A Pennington, I Welch & T Wiltshire.

Public : 1 member of the press – these Minutes do not record when members of the public joined or left the meeting.

In Attendance : Anne Minnis (Town Clerk) and Beverley Collins (Minutes).

Housekeeping – The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised the following:

- That the meeting may be filmed or recorded by members of the public.
- That Wadebridge Town Council is recording the meeting.
- Members and members of the public to turn mobile phones to silent.

1430/21 Apologies – None.

1431/21 Declarations of Interest –

a) **Pecuniary Interests** (*To declare those interests which have been declared on your Register of Interests relevant to the Agenda of the meeting. Whenever the item is being discussed, including public participation, Councillors must leave the room and not take part in the discussion and decision*) – None.

b) **Non-Registerable Interests** (*To declare non-registerable interests at the start of the meeting or whenever the interest becomes apparent. When the item is being discussed, including public participation, Councillors must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or decision*) –

- Cllr Pennington declared an interest in agenda item 9.a.i., PA21/01517.

c) **Dispensations** – None.

1432/21 Minutes of Last Meeting – *The Minutes of the meeting held on the 10 March 2021 were RESOLVED to be a true record of the meeting subject to the following amendment :*

- *Page 168, amend Minute 1407/21 to read 1429/21.*

Signing of the Minutes by the Mayor was deferred.

1433/21 Public Participation

- Members of the public addressing the meeting were as follows : None.
- Reports from Cornwall Councillors :
 - **Cllr Knightley (Wadebridge East)** – apologies received.
 - **Cllr Moorcroft (Wadebridge West)** - apologies received.
- Reports from the Police : None.

1434/21 Mayor's Report – None.

1435/21 Finance :

- a. February 2021 accounts for payment – *It was RESOLVED to approve payment of £58,956.87 as presented.*

1436/21 Correspondence

- a. The following correspondence for information was *received* –
- i. **Cornwall Council - Town & Parish Council COVID-19 Update (5 March 2021).**
 - ii. **ACC Mayhew (Devon & Cornwall Police) – G7 Leaders’ Summit letter.**
 - iii. **Cornwall Council - Town & Parish Council COVID-19 Update (12 March 2021).**
- b. Correspondence for response (circulated with agenda) – Members discussed the requests received and made the following decisions :
- i. **David Rowland – Request to hold an event on Jubilee Playing Fields on 2 – 4 July 2021.**
 - Members discussed the request submitted. Some points noted included; that the event organiser must comply with Covid-19 guidelines in place at the time of the event, provide all documentation relating to insurance, risk assessments and health and safety and to also clarify where staff will stay overnight through the event.
 - *It was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Clerk and Mayor to obtain further information regarding the event prior to making a decision.*
 - ii. **Correspondence from Parishioner – Reputation of Wadebridge Town Council.**
 - The Mayor read a response statement regarding the content of the correspondence (copy attached to Minutes).

Members debated the matter raised within the correspondence and how recent social media attacks have impacted negatively on both councillors individually and the council as a body.

It was noted that the members of the public involved in this matter appear to be the same individuals time and again and those individuals have a history of such action.

The Mayor reminded the meeting that this matter concerns all councillors and is not related to any one particular councillor or incident.

Several Members voiced their feelings that this matter borders on harassment and bullying and that they feel intimidated by it.

Concerns raised with regard to the behaviour and actions of those individuals involved in the this matter included :

- This is bringing the town council into disrepute.
- Is creating a negative situation which will impact on anyone thinking of joining the town council.
- Negates the positive actions of the town council.
- These are malicious actions by the individuals who appear to be colluding to tarnish the good reputation of the town council.
- The Nolan principles apply, especially in the case of one individual who is responsible for a social media attack on the weekend of 20 March 2021.

The Mayor reiterated that this matter does not relate to one particular attack or councillor but the town council as a whole.

Members debated the main Nolan principles which are paramount to all councillors in order that they behave in the correct manner with decency and transparency.

There was discussion around the current membership of the town council which is working well and does not deserve to be targeted. Members debated whether the town council should submit a Code of Conduct complaint. It was noted that past experience of submitting Code of Conduct complaints has left the town council disappointed with the action and outcome from Cornwall Council. Code of Conduct complaints appear to have little significance or value. Past complaints which have been upheld have made no difference.

The Mayor advised that more information will come to light over the next week or so and will allow further and more detailed discussion on this matter.

The following was also noted :

- Some Members feel that they are unable to use social media for fear of coming under attack.
- The role of a town councillor is often misunderstood by the public who sometimes see a town or parish councillor as holding a more political role.

- c. The following Minutes and Agendas from Outside Committees were **received** for information –
- i. Padstow Harbour Commissioners – Minutes of meeting held February 2021.

1437/21 Committee Meetings – None.

1438/21 Planning –

- a. **Applications** – Cllr Pennington provided details and relevant information for each application for Members consideration. *It was **RESOLVED** to make the following responses:*

**Cllr Pennington declared an interest and was moved to the waiting room.
Cllr Welch, Deputy Chair of the Planning Committee to the next item.**

- i. **PA21/01517** : 70 Egloshayle Road, side extension to rear of dwelling, re-roof of extension, internal alterations.
Cllr Welch read comments submitted by the applicant.
SUPPORTED.
Cllr Pennington re-joined the meeting.
- ii. **PA21/01734** : 14 Mowhay Meadow, proposed alterations and additions to the existing dwelling. **SUPPORTED.**
- iii. **PA21/02013** : Trehane, Trevanion Road, The proposal is for single storey single bedroom self contained studio in the grounds of Trehane. **SUPPORTED.**
- iv. **PA21/01141** : Vistry South West, Land off Higher Trenant Road / Green Hill Wadebridge, Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning permission PA17/05689 seeking approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of 204 dwellings (Duplicate of PA20/10911). **MEMBERS DO NOT SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PROPOSAL LACKS ARCHITECTURAL MERIT AND THERE IS NOT ADEQUATE INFORMATION PROVIDED REGARDING THE MATERIALS BEING USED. FURTHER TO THAT THERE ARE CONCERNS AND ISSUES WHICH REMAIN UNRESOLVED WITH; HIGHWAYS/ACCESS, THE STEEPNESS OF THE GARDENS, DRAINAGE AND OVERLOOKING. MEMBERS UNDERSTAND THAT NEIGHBOURING RESIDENTS HAVE RAISED CONCERNS WITH THESE MATTERS.**

- b. **Decisions** – the following decisions from Cornwall Council were **received** :
- i. **PA20/03757** : Land West of the The Hermitage, Bodieve, Wadebridge, Outline application for a proposed new dwelling with all matters reserved. **REFUSED**.
 - ii. **PA20/07006** : Land East of Tristram, Trevanion Road, Construction of two bedroom dwelling in the grounds of Tristram. It will have its own off street parking for two cars, whilst leaving two spaces for the host dwelling. **APPROVED**.
 - iii. **PA20/10848** : 8 Camelside, Egloshayle Road, Replace 5 timber windows and 2 double doors with white grained PVC frames with clear glass. **APPROVED**.
 - iv. **PA20/09098** : Everything Golf Studios, The Carpet Trader, Trevanson Street, Change of use of carpet shop to indoor golf simulator experience with lounge bar. **APPROVED**.

c. **For Information - (no action required)** – None.

1438/21 Wadebridge Library – The Clerk provided an update on reopening as follows :

- Reopened for Fridays only on 19 March 2021.
- Will not be reopening for full browsing on 12 April 2021 – a more prudent approach will be taken for various reasons including staffing purposes.
- Click and collect remains available.
- Working with neighbouring town councils and Cornwall Council with a hope that a full reopen in summer will be possible.

1439/21 Town Vitality Fund (correspondence previously issued to Councillors) – The Clerk provided an update including some problems which have arisen with the application process. Concerns with the logistics and difficulties of being able to submit an application in accordance with the process were discussed.

Members debated the town council's position including;

- The disappointment with partner and external groups not wanting to work with or support the town council in moving forward with positive ideas for the town.
- The historic and ongoing unrest and attacks on the town council causes such negative impact on this kind of work.
- This grant would have undoubtedly proved beneficial to the community of Wadebridge especially for the youth of the town.
- Ongoing concerns with the running of the Goods Shed were highlighted.

The Clerk advised that she feels that, unfortunately at this time, there is not a method to deliver an application as the terms of the grant cannot be met.

- *It was **RESOLVED** that Wadebridge Town Council does not submit an application as it cannot be submitted in accordance with the grant terms.*

1440/21 Dates of Next Wadebridge Town Council meetings –

- Full Council – 7pm, Wednesday 7 April 2021 (remote Zoom meeting)

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed as a True and Accurate Account:

Chair :

Date :