

SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Civic Amenities Committee held in The Guildhall on Wednesday 3rd February 2010 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors A Killea (Chairman), R Bickford, P Clements, G Ellison,
M Gee, Mrs S Hooper MBE, C Oakes, C Riches, P Stephens ISM

ALSO PRESENT Councillor D Holley
Mrs M Small (Town Clerk)
Mrs F de Rijke-Winter (for part of meeting)

APOLOGIES: Councillor R Austin, M Down (Christmas Event)

168/09/10 LEAFLET

A leaflet which is circulating was brought to the attention of the Committee which is offering to undertake work at competitive rates but shows no address and no land line number. The leaflets are being delivered anything up to 9 pm. Councillor Riches undertook to make enquiries to see if the company should be registered with Social Services and depending on the outcome will issue a press release and/or an article in the Messenger.

169/09/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were declared as follows:-

All Councillors present (except Councillor Stephens) declared a personal interest in the SaltFest application for Festival Funding as either members of Livewire or the applicant is known to them.

Councillor Killea declared a personal interest in Showcase as he is Chairman of the Saltash Environment Action Group and member of Rotaract, both of which are taking part in Showcase.

Councillor Stephens declared a personal interest in Showcase as he is Chairman of the May Fair Committee and Youth Council, both of which are taking part in Showcase.

Councillors Gee and Bickford declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Elwell Woods as Treasurer and member respectively of Saltash Waterfront Residents Association (SWRA) which has made the application and will leave the meeting during discussion of this item. Councillor Ellison declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Elwell Woods and will leave the meeting after speaking as he was the applicant on behalf of SWRA. Councillor Clements declared a personal interest in Elwell Woods as he is a member of the project Committee.

170/09/10 FESTIVAL FUNDING

An application for Festival Funding was considered from SaltFest at Waterside. It is **RECOMMENDED** that a grant of up to £5000 is approved, subject to any surplus being returned to the Town Council, the Town Council's support is

acknowledged in any publicity and copies of invoices and a balance sheet are submitted to the Council.

171/09/10 CHRISTMAS EVENT

- (a) Consideration was given as to whether the event continues on a Saturday, as it had been raised during questions at the full Council meeting that traders did not want it on a Saturday. Councillor Stephens said that some traders to whom he had spoken say that both the May Fair and the Christmas Event damage their business, but other traders say they make quite a considerable amount on the day.

The Clerk stated that Mr Jacobs had asked her to state that neither he nor the schools are available on a Saturday, but if the event was held on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, he would be available to both help in the organisation and participate on the day. If the event is held on a Monday or a Friday, he could still help in the organisation, but might not be able to take part in the event on the day.

Councillor Holley stated that in future there will probably be a charge in the car parks on a Saturday afternoon.

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the event remains on a Saturday and that it is borne in mind that, if there is a charge on the car parks, the Town Council might ask for an exception for the afternoon of the Christmas Event.

- (b) Letters of thanks from Mr and Mrs Roissetter (Hijack) and Mrs Greaves on behalf of the Maurice Huggins Rooms were reported thanking the Council for the donations for the Christmas event.
- (c) The Clerk reported that the Christmas tree lights had to have repairs during the lighting period and have now been condemned. Therefore, new Christmas lights are required for this year. She reported that Councillor Reid is meeting some of the big lighting companies regarding the renewal of festive lights. Councillors stated that the Christmas tree was not very good and Councillor Ellison stated that trees from Polbathic were better, and this should be brought to the attention of Cornwall Council. Councillor Killeya reported that he had spoken with Councillor Reid regarding an outside committee organising the Christmas event, but he had not yet got back to him.

It was **AGREED** that Councillor Reid also makes enquiries as to the cost for the Christmas tree lights.

172/09/10 TOWN COUNCIL STRATEGY

It was **AGREED** that, in line with the Town Council Strategy, the following two projects for the Civic Amenities Committee have lead Councillors appointed to progress them, as follows:

- (a) Phase IV Environmental Works – Councillor Ellison.
- (b) Allotments – Councillor Killeya (until May and then to be reviewed)

173/09/10 SPONSORSHIP OF ROUNDABOUTS

Councillor Killeya reported that Councillor Austin had obtained the information regarding signs permitted on the roundabouts, which he will pass to the Town Clerk, and it was **AGREED** that she will scan the document and circulate to Councillors.

174/09/10 ELWELL WOODS

(Councillor Gee left the meeting having previously declared a prejudicial interest.)

Councillor Ellison updated the meeting regarding the Elwell Woods project. The application has been submitted and the Panel meets at the end of February/beginning of March to decide whether funding will be available. The sculptor will be taking the model of the cross to show when the application is being considered. The planning application has now been submitted.

(Councillor Ellison left the meeting, having previously declared a prejudicial interest.)

A letter was reported from Saltash Waterfront Residents' Association (SWRA) asking that the planning application fee is reimbursed to SWRA. It was **AGREED** that this is deferred without comment to the Town Council meeting.

175/09/10 ALLOTMENTS

- (a) Councillor Killeya reported that 60 members of the public had attended the meeting to discuss allotments and were very enthusiastic. They were very pleased with the proposal for the site near the Holland Inn and 15 names of people wishing to go on a committee list for an Allotment Association were taken. Since then, a meeting of those interested in forming the association had taken place and the Saltash Allotment Association was formed with Chairman - Michael Dobb, Treasurer - Mr Doney, Secretary – Mr Wall. They had also asked for a table at the Showcase.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that Councillor Clements is appointed as the Town Council representative on the Saltash Allotment Association.

It was **AGREED** that:

- (i) the allotment sub-committee hold a walkabout at 2pm on Saturday 6th March to look at other possible allotment sites and to inspect the Town Council sites,
- (ii) if a person dies who is renting an allotment, the Town Council's default position is that allotments may not be sublet, but in exceptional circumstances, if there is evidence of joint working an allotment by a husband/wife/son/daughter, the Town Council would consider allocating the same allotment to that person. Also in exceptional circumstances, the Town Council would consider

an application to allow time to cultivate a crop in the case of a bereavement

- (iii) Once the proposed allotments at the cemetery are up and running, the Town council look at the remaining land to see if use could be made of further temporary allotments,
 - (iv) Councillor Killeya was thanked for his work on forming the Association.
- (b) The Clerk reported that there are 23 currently who had put their names down for an allotment at the cemetery extension, but some of these also indicate a willingness to consider the site near the Holland Inn, and this will, therefore, be a continuing update.

176/09/10 SHOWCASE

The Clerk reported that about 30 stalls had been booked, the Town Crier has been booked for two sessions, refreshments are to be undertaken by Ashtorre and time to finish will be 4:00pm, but if there is little activity this could close at 3:00pm.

177/09/10 STREET LIGHTING

- (a) An e-mail was reported from Sophie Edwards, the Anti-social Behaviour Officer, stating that following meetings with the lighting company, it could be a further six to eight weeks before the lighting is finalised for Jubilee Close, but she will inform the Town Council as soon as she has a date.
- (b) Councillor Holley reported on the request for a street light on the footpath between Longmeadow Road and Hillside Road. He stated that this is a steep lane which zigzags and is well used. The drain cover at the bottom is particularly slippery. It was **RECOMMENDED** by 7 for and 1 against that Cornwall Council is asked to install lighting on this path and the Town Council would accept the future running and maintenance cost of the light.

(Councillor Holley left the meeting)

178/09/10 BUS SHELTERS

- (a) The Clerk reported that she had just asked Mrs Rebecca Dickson for a date when she could meet regarding the Carkeel shelter, and once she has the details this will be circulated and parishioners contacted.
- (b) She had not as yet contacted Adshell regarding the possibility of a shelter opposite Lidl on Callington Road.
- (c) She had spoken with the company offering free shelters from Liskeard and it was **AGREED** that a list of current possibilities is forwarded to them and they would advise the Council whether they would be able to help on the routes suggested.

- (d) The Clerk reported that the bus shelter in Fairmead Road, opposite the fish and chip shop, is very wobbly. Cornwall Council had been contacted regarding this and a price was awaited for its repair.

179/09/10 SEAT AT LONGLANDS LANE

Councillor Clements showed a picture of a seat in Longlands Lane which is placed on a steep slope and would be useful to walkers, but the seat is in need of repair and the area needs tidying. It was **AGREED** that:

- (a) the Clerk obtains a quote for removal of the seat and delegated authority is given to the Clerk and Chairman of the Committee to accept the quotation up to £100.
- (b) the Clerk will forward the list of seats for updating to consider whether any are in need of repair.

180/09/10 BOUNDARY STONES

The Clerk reported a quotation of £200 from Pascoe's to straighten, clean and re-write the lettering on the boundary stone near Hatt. It was **AGREED** that a decision is delayed until the next beating of the bounds.

181/09/10 SIGNS AT HATT AND NOTTER BRIDGE

Councillor Killeya reported that the signs at Hatt and Notter Bridge needed cleaning or renewal and he had asked Cornwall Councillors if they would have any funding from their budget. Councillor Riches stated that there was no funding available in the current financial year, as this was all being spent on Traffic Regulation Orders, but he could come back in the new financial year to ask the question.

It was **AGREED** by 7 for and 1 abstention (Councillor Riches) to defer further consideration until Councillor Riches can clarify the situation of ownership of the signs, before any work is undertaken.

182/09/10 BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME

An e-mail was reported from a Mr David Hodge stating that it is 100 years since his grandfather, George Carter-Bignall, died. He had lived in Saltash and his entomological studies are recognised in both the Plymouth City Museum and the Natural History Museum in London. Mr Hodge was enquiring if the Council operated a Blue Plaque scheme and if a plaque could be put on the house where he lived. Councillor Killeya reported that he had obtained various pieces of information on Blue Plaque schemes. It was **AGREED** that, in principle, the Town Council will look into a scheme and that a sub-committee is set up for this, with representatives as follows:

Councillors A Killeya, Mrs S Hooper, P Clements, C Oakes and a representative of Saltash Heritage.

183/09/10 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

It was **AGREED** that, as the lead Councillor for the phase IV environmental works, Councillor Ellison will look into how to proceed with this and report back to the Committee.

184/09/10 DOG FOULING

A letter was reported from Saltash Rugby Club stating that dog fouling was still a problem on the pitches Chapel Field. Councillor Riches reported that Cornwall Councillors will be attending the Rugby Club this Saturday to investigate this further. Councillor Riches also stated that people do not like the new dog fouling signs which have been produced.

It was **AGREED** that:-

- (a) the letter is forwarded to Chris James at Cornwall Council and to add the Town Council's concerns regarding dog fouling at Chapel Field and asking him to arrange for the area to be cleaned, as is their statutory responsibility. A copy of the response should also be sent to the Town Council.
- (b) Cornwall Council is asked to ban dogs going across the pitch, except at the statutory public rights of way.

185/09/10 SEWERAGE LEAKS AT WATERFRONT

Councillor Gee reported that, by the sheds at the riverside, there is a large pumping station to pump sewerage across the river to Ernesettle. The sewerage is under pressure, but there are not sufficient bolts to stop the lids from lifting and when a bolt flies out there is a jet of some three to four feet of untreated sewerage.

It was **AGREED** that:-

- (a) the Town Council gives a letter of support, stating that the position is intolerable, and asking Cornwall Councillors to contact the Environmental Department i.e. Sarah Gratton at Luxstowe, with a copy to the MP and Councillor Holley.
- (b) the question is asked if works currently undertaken in the area of the old Gas Board site are intended to alleviate this problem, and also to ask what effect these works will have on the current problems.

186/09/10 SEAT

A letter was reported from Mrs Prout asking if she could donate a seat in memory of their parents, Raymond and Anne Watson. They requested a bench at the Waterfront, but if not, perhaps the bench could be put on the Green. It was **AGREED** that the matter is deferred to ask Mrs Prout if she would consider donating a seat in Silver Street, near to the new mural as it was felt that a seat should not be placed on the Green.

(Councillor Riches declared a personal interest as Mrs Prout's son attends the Wesley Church.)

(Councillor Mrs Hooper left the meeting.)

187/09/10 FOOTPATHS

- (a) It was **AGREED** that a letter is sent to Cornwall Council asking them to take up again the question of the bridges being put in between Berry Park and Pillmere.
- (b) With reference to the locked gate between Gilston Road and Badgers Walk, it was **AGREED** to ask Mrs R Dickson to have the gate opened for an experimental three month period, in order that the effect of its use, including that of motorcycles, can be monitored before a decision is made.
- (c) Councillor Clements reported that he had thought that a response to Natural England's consultation on coastal access was not a possibility, but he had been advised by Councillor Holley, in consultation with Mr Eastwood that it was a possibility to include the Tamar Bridge as the "first permanent crossing on foot" and, therefore, he asked if the Town Council could make a response to the consultation which closed in two days. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council submit a response.

(Councillor Riches left the meeting.)

188/09/10 ONGOING REPORTS FOR NOTING

The following issues are being followed up and were noted:

- (a) problem with weeds in town,
- (b) payments to Town Council from Highways,
- (c) update on A38 Saltash Tunnel approaches.

189/09/10 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Councillor Killeya stated that Saltash Environmental Action (SEA) is coming to the March Civic Amenities meeting and would like to discuss the idea of vegetables being planted in the planters in Fore Street. It was **AGREED** that Mr Hine is made aware of this proposal to allow consideration when ordering plants.

(Councillor Killeya declared a personal interest as Chairman of SEA)

Councillor Ellison advised the Committee that the Brunel statue is being installed on Waterside Green.

190/09/10 PRESS RELEASES

It was **AGREED** that the following press releases are issued:

Showcase – Councillor Killeya
Coastal access – Councillor Clements
Leaflet (Councillor Riches – depending on the result of his enquiries)

191/09/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 7pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: 18th February 2010