



HAYLE TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2016

Minutes of the Hayle Town Council Meeting held at the Hayle Community Centre, Hayle on Thursday 20 October 2016 commencing at 7.15pm with a **Public Participation Session**.

PRESENT

Councillor N Farrar (Mayor)
Councillors J Bennett, B Capper, D Cocks, G Coad, I Lawrence, B Mims, J Ninnes, O Philp, C Polkinghorne, J Pollard, and B Wills

Clerk David Gallie

7.17PM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Maria Ellis read out a question and comments (see Appendix B) she had prepared for Inspector Jean Phillips regarding the redeployment of Sergeant Mike Friday. It was agreed that Inspector Phillips would respond during her presentation in agenda item 7, (minute 112 refers).

Gail Willis also read out questions and comments (see Appendix C) regarding the consideration and subsequent approval of planning application PA16/03159 (Cranford's development at Marsh Lane) by Cornwall Council (CC)'s Strategic Planning Committee and the inaccurate information given regarding the Hayle Neighbourhood Plan and whether the town council could take any action. She was informed that only an applicant can appeal a decision and that a judicial review could take place only if errors in the process had occurred.

7.21PM THE MEETING COMMENCED

106 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

There were none.

107 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Coombe, Lello and Rance.

108 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Pollard declared an interest in agenda item 9a (minute 114a refers) and made the following statement: - 'In commenting on these applications I should make it clear that my comments are based on the information currently available and do not commit me to taking the same position if the matter is discussed at the Cornwall Council Planning Committee and full information is available.'

Councillor Polkinghorne declared an interest in planning application PA16/08492 and Councillor Farrar declared an interest in planning application PA16/08592.

[7.23pm Cllr Capper joined the meeting.]

109 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING 6 OCTOBER 2016

It was resolved that the minutes of the Full Council meeting 6 October 2016 be taken as a true and accurate record, the Mayor signing each page before placing them in the record book.

110 TO DISCUSS MATTERS WHICH WERE RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 6 OCTOBER 2016

All matters had been dealt with on the night.

111 REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES FOR APPROVAL

- a) To receive the report from the Amenities Committee meeting 22 September 2016

It was resolved to receive the report so that actions could be carried out.

112 TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM INSPECTOR JEAN PHILLIPS REGARDING THE POLICING STRUCTURE IN THE HAYLE AREA

The mayor introduced Inspector Jean Phillips.

Inspector Phillips explained that since the summer there had been much discussion and public furore regarding the policing structure in the Hayle area, particularly regarding Sgt Mike Friday's deployment to custody in Camborne.

Since the decision to move Sgt Friday she, with intervention from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), had been able to allocate an extra PC to cover Hayle and St Ives. The PCC, Chief Constable would be coming down for a further closed meeting with the local campaign team.

Sgt Friday had completed his training and was due to start work in Camborne on 5 January 2017. He had holiday to take and there would be a handover period with Sgt Gemma Freestone, who would be covering Penzance (her current responsibility) and Hayle and St Ives. She would be attending the Hayle and St Ives Community Network Panel meeting on 5 December 2016.

Inspector Phillips reported that additional funding had been found for a new PC for the Hayle and St Ives area, who was currently being recruited and was expected to be in post in the new year. Their official base would depend on who the person was and where they lived. There was space in both Hayle's and St Ives's buildings and the PC would work out of both bases.

PCSO Kevin Youngman had moved to Helston and PCSO Dan Tilsley was due to start in November. He had an excellent rapport with children especially and had experience organizing parades.

Inspector Phillips had disapproved of the 'hogging' of hub officers at Penzance five years ago and had felt passionately about Hayle and St Ives. She said that while there had been no official jobs for response officers in the Hayle and St Ives area, some had been based in Hayle. Ian Tolchard and George Torrance would be retiring but she had volunteers to take their places within Hayle. There was an increase in PC numbers and PCSO numbers were getting up to strength.

She asked everyone to give Sgt Gemma Freestone a chance. There had been a lot of negative press about her, but she was a local girl whose children went to school in Hayle. She was a good team leader and a bit nervous that she had been written off before she had started.

At this point Inspector Phillips answered Maria Ellis's question. Yes, she was due to retire, but had had 29 years giving 100% and intended to give 100% for her last year. She said that she admired Sgt Friday's dedication but she was responsible for his wellbeing and it was her job to let him know if she thought he was in need of attention and/or help. She did not expect him to come in on days off or holidays or to take work calls at home. She said that Sgt Freestone would do her duty within the hours given and would give 100%, but Inspector Phillips would not allow her to work outside her hours. It was not expected of police officers, just as it was not expected of other workers.

In reply to comments from councillors about their concerns regarding the replacement of a sergeant with only a PC and the difficulties already experienced reporting and getting crimes (such as the slashing of car tyres) investigated, Inspector Phillips was also anxious that a sergeant was being lost, with only a PC to replace him and she agreed that such crimes were important. She said that her experience having her own role expanded had been daunting, but it had worked out well in the end and she believed that the same could be true of the current situation. She said the important issue was having a good team that worked together.

Inspector Phillips agreed that it was necessary for more senior police personnel to recognize the importance of neighbourhood policing and that although it was not a Plymouth or an Exeter, Hayle paid for and deserved a good service from the police.

Councillors acknowledged Sgt Mike Friday's professionalism in keeping quiet about his redeployment during the public furore and petitions, but said that he himself, not just his position, was important as he knew his beat and the local community very well. It was bizarre that he had been moved to manage custody in Camborne and it was as if he was being punished for something. Councillors would have welcomed hearing that he had been promoted to inspector somewhere. Inspector Phillips admitted that custody sergeant was not a popular role and the recent redeployment was a case of a 'pressed man' not a volunteer, but she added that Sgt Friday was very positive and was thinking of studying to get his inspectorate – she also posed a question regarding whether or not anyone had asked Sgt Friday if he had wanted to 'be saved'. Councillors replied that he had been given great credit for his professionalism in accepting the situation. Inspector Phillips confirmed that moving Sgt Friday had been a Cornwall Management Team decision.

In response to councillors' concern for Sgt Gemma Freestone's wellbeing with such a heavy workload, Inspector Phillips confirmed that she was conscious of her welfare and that she, Inspector Phillips, would have to be more hands on regarding Hayle and St Ives until it was clear how the new team structure was working. She added that the PCC had also said she would be keeping an eye on how things were going.

In response to a comment regarding the difficulty of getting special constables in the area due to the required 13 weekends' training in Exeter, Inspector Phillips said that in recognition of these difficulties, the number of visits to Exeter had been reduced and online training using iPads was now being provided and was currently under review. She added that recruitment was service driven, but that she was now asking to do local campaigns; she was not aware of imminent new specials for the area. A 'citizens in policing' manager had been employed to look into the matter. She also added that special constables can now do almost as much as a PC and she welcomed and looked forward to having more specials locally.

Inspector Phillips was asked to comment on policing in Cornwall versus Devon and whether she sensed a change in the pattern of policing across the regional authorities; it was acknowledged that police numbers were being cut everywhere and that there were huge problems in Plymouth and Exeter, but councillors wanted to know if more rural areas were being more heavily hit. Inspector Phillips said she did not sense that Cornwall was being treated as a 'poor relation' and she saw cuts across the board. The numbers of officers she was responsible for were reducing but numbers were being maintained across the service as more input was being given to specific areas such as online abuse and child abuse. She added that resources had to come from somewhere.

Councillors wanted to see the PCC, who Inspector Phillips had said was keen on neighbourhood policing, at more local meetings as she had reportedly promised.

It was resolved to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, copying in Inspector Jean Phillips, to inform them that Hayle Town Council strongly opposes the proposed changes to and reduction in policing in Hayle and to ask that the police service review this decision.

Councillor Cocks questioned Inspector Phillips regarding the legality of the high number of agricultural vehicles on the roads of which very many had the same licence plate. He also asked about laws to require such vehicles to move off the road if there was a queue of traffic behind them. Inspector Phillips agreed to look into both matters and get back to him as soon as she could.

In response to a comment questioning the preferred vehicles of local police officers, Inspector Phillips confirmed that pushbikes were available but that officers preferred to use cars so that they could deploy further to support colleagues.

It was generally acknowledged that successive governments had slashed police budgets time after time and some claimed that budget cuts had been worst under Theresa May when she had been Home Secretary and that things appeared to be only getting worse.

The mayor thanked Inspector Phillips for coming to the meeting, her presentation and answering questions.

113 HAYLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

It was reported that the close to final plan had been submitted to Robert Lacey at CC for a scoping view on whether a strategic environmental assessment was needed. If it was it would need funding. Then the Hayle Neighbourhood Plan could be submitted formally to CC as a request for review and following any necessary changes would then be submitted to the inspector. It was noted that the Cornwall Site Allocations DPD was out for consultation so some changes would need to be made. Everything was progressing well and there was not a lot left for the Steering Group to do.

It was reported that the Hayle Chamber of Commerce had decided at its recent meeting to circulate the DPD to its membership and Councillor Coad, who had attended the meeting as HTC representative, had asked the Chamber to express a strong preference for the Tolroy junction, not the option CC seemed to be favouring. Councillor Bennett reported that he had copied the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's comments to the Chamber and asked it to support them.

114 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) To consider Planning Applications: PA16/08137; PA16/08294; PA16/08607; PA16/08492; PA16/08592; PA16/07977; PA16/07408; PA16/08009; PA16/08443; PA16/08447; PA16/08651 and PA16/06413

For the resolutions on individual planning applications see Appendix A attached.

[During the discussions and resolutions regarding PA16/08492 and PA16/08592 Councillor Polkinghorne and Councillor Farrar respectively left the room.]

- b) To note the results of previous applications

There was a discussion regarding the information provided at the CC Strategic Planning Committee during its consideration of planning application PA16/03159 (Cranford's) and the town council's view that some of this information was inaccurate, especially that regarding the emerging Hayle Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that no-one from CC had contacted Councillor Bennett, the Chair of the Steering Group, for the most up to date information on the neighbourhood plan and that CC had relied upon the very early draft documents available online, which had not been updated due to time pressures, when it would have been easy to check the current (at that time) position. The applicant's comment that the Hayle Neighbourhood Plan was 'in its infancy' was wholly incorrect as the plan was in fact nearing completion and had been a significant factor in the objection from the town council to the planning application.

It was resolved to write to Cornwall Council as follows: 'Hayle Town Council objected to PA16/03159, the proposed Cranford's development on Marsh Lane, which has recently been approved by CC's Strategic Planning Committee. During the committee meeting advice was given by the legal officer regarding the weight that should be given to the emerging Hayle Neighbourhood Plan and this council asks for this advice to be reviewed as it believes it to have been inaccurate.'

There were no other results of applications.

- c) To clarify the council's position regarding its resolution to copy in all councillors to planning officers' recommendations when they vary from its decisions regarding individual planning applications

The procedure for dealing with disagreements between the town council and CC's planning officers was explained and it was agreed that the copying of emails to all councillors was for information only, not for contribution of comments further to the town council's formal decision. It was emphasised that the town council needed to resolve to ask for applications to go to CC Planning Committee on the night an application was considered if this was the wish of the town council.

It was agreed that the town council office would forward emails to Councillor Coad only and he would take any action required, bearing in mind the flavour of the discussion preceding the resolution in question, and would forward emails to and inform other councillors of his actions. Councillors thanked Councillor Coad for his work as planning single point of contact.

115 FOOTPATHS

- a) To consider CORMAC Solutions Ltd's request for confirmation of any Public Rights of Way footpaths or Structures (such as Gates or Stiles) that Hayle Town Council wish to be added to or removed from its Local Maintenance Partnership schedule for 2017/2018

Councillors decided not to consider the request as a group, but it was noted that ideas from councillors needed to be given to the footpaths working party (comprising Councillors Bennett, Capper and Rance), which would meet with the clerk (meeting to be arranged by the clerk/the clerk's team) before the deadline of 14 November.

- b) Maintenance Update

It was noted that Jubilee Path (Footpath 51) had been shorn. Positive comments had been received, but there had been a very small number of less than happy Hayle residents and Councillor Pollard asked for a statement from the town council office regarding the reasons for the (in some opinions very severe) cut. It was explained that the pathway was being encroached and the cut had been necessary to maintain the width obtained during the path's restoration in recent years. David Gallie agreed to supply a statement of information he received during a discussion on this issue with the contractor CORMAC's Tom Marks.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm.

Approved by the Council as a true record, at its meeting 3 November 2016

Town Mayor

Date