



HAYLE TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY 4 JANUARY 2018

Minutes of the Hayle Town Council Meeting held at the Hayle Community Centre, Hayle on Thursday 4 January 2018 commencing at 7.15pm with a **Public Participation Session**.

PRESENT

Councillor N Farrar (Mayor)

Councillors S Benney, H Blakeley, B Capper, D Cocks, B Mims, P Nidds, C Polkinghorne, J Pollard, A Roden and B Wills

Clerk Eleanor Giggall

7.15PM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Trevor Smitheram attended to speak about an incident at Bay View on 28 December when a branch fell off a tree, witnessed by a neighbour. He had reported the incident and the dangerous state of other trees in the vicinity to Cornwall Council (CC) and had received a report which identified them as providing a good view and community amenity. He had also contacted Devon and Cornwall Housing Association (DCH) but had received no reply from them. In his opinion the trees represented a serious threat to life and he was very worried that a child (there was a Montessori nursery nearby) or an elderly person would be killed. CC had the authority to override DCH if the danger was considered to be great and the clerk reported that she had forwarded the information provided by Mr Smitheram to all the people responsible for trees she could think of at CORMAC and CC. Councillor Wills confirmed that the location in question was at Tremorva and behind Bay View Terrace. CC had investigated and noted that the trees were already being worked on and had stated that CORMAC's further involvement was not necessary as they had carried out essential work and had passed them back to DCH.

Mr Smitheram and councillors were concerned about the description in the tree report that there was 'an acceptable level of failure' and agreed that the recommendation that people should just avoid the path (in the vicinity of the trees) on a windy day was a wholly inadequate response. Mr Smitheram stated that the trees also posed a threat to the railway line and drains. He stated that he was happy to plant other trees in the place of these dangerous ones if they were taken down and said his views were also those of other concerned neighbours.

Councillors were aware of the issue and Councillor Pollard confirmed that the authorities had been aware of the danger since 2010 although CC had not condemned the trees. Councillor Wills confirmed that DCH had accepted that the trees needed work and in fact they were being worked on as per a recent planning application; however, everyone was concerned that not enough work was being done as the work witnessed had appeared minor. She undertook to engage with DCH and hoped that she could trigger further inspection. It was noted that if the trees posed an extreme risk CC would be able to take action even if DCH, the responsible

authority, did not. It was also noted that CC was on alert all over the county because of the recent storms.

The clerk reported that she was aware of several other Monterey pines being taken down as emergencies as their condition had deteriorated quickly. She advised Pat Atkins and Terry Brown, neighbours who were also present in support of Mr Smitheram, that they should encourage their other neighbours collectively to badger DCH as often as possible until the situation was resolved.

Mr Smitheram said he would contact Network Rail the following day; they had the right to make sure any trees in danger of collapsing onto the railway line were taken down. He and Councillors Wills and Pollard also agreed to contact DCH as a matter of urgency.

If there was no satisfactory response from DCH it was suggested that Mr Smitheram and his neighbours go to the press and local radio to encourage it to take action.

The clerk reported that she had already made DCH and CC aware of everyone's concerns and it was hoped that the foreman of the contractors already working on the trees would report his concerns to DCH and get authorisation for immediate removal of the trees.

Mr Smitheram thanked the council for listening to his concerns.

The clerk undertook to forward Mr Smitheram's emails and attached photographs to Councillor Wills.

7.40 PM THE MEETING COMMENCED

169 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The mayor praised CORMAC for putting up barriers at a piece of damaged play equipment in the Recreation Ground on Christmas Eve within two hours of his report.

It was announced that a Christmas card had been received from the Mayor of Pordic.

The clerk reported that she had been interviewed on the Laurence Reed show on Radio Cornwall that day; the interview had been a surprise and she had been immediately put through to the live discussion. However, she was happy to report that callers had praised Hayle for keeping its toilets open.

170 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Channon, Coad and Rance.

171 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

172 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING 21 DECEMBER 2017

It was resolved that the minutes of the full council meeting 21 December 2017 be taken as a true and accurate record, the mayor signing each page before placing them in the record book.

173 TO DISCUSS MATTERS RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 21 DECEMBER 2017

All matters had been dealt with on the night.

174 HAYLE EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNITY STATION REPORT

- a) To receive and note the report, if any

No report had been received.

Councillor Pollard added that as far as he was aware nothing had been done about the safety concerns at the Community Station, which had been raised with him several months previously.

175 REPORTS OF OTHER COMMITTEES FOR APPROVAL

- a) To receive the report of the Resource Committee meeting 26 October 2017

It was reported that the minutes were not currently available due to the sickness absence of the finance officer, but would follow in due course.

- b) To receive the report the Resource Committee meeting 14 December 2017

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

176 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES/WORKING PARTIES/EVENTS

It was reported that the Recreation Ground Kiosk tenants had had a meeting with Hayle Town Council (HTC) representatives regarding their plans to expand/rebuild the kiosk. The tenants asked for HTC to take the lead on the project, but had been informed that nothing would happen in 2018 as the town council had too many other active projects. It was agreed that at some point HTC would have to give it due consideration and then give an indication to the tenants of what they could aspire to. The clerk stressed that everyone had to be realistic about timescales, due to budgets and the pressure of work and that it would probably be 2019 before any plans could start, with a view to any facility being operational by 2020. Councillor Pollard wanted to discuss the project details sooner and pointed out that there were financial reserves that could be used if the budget set for 2018/2019 could not stretch to it. The clerk reminded everyone that there were several other projects on the table and the town council needed to decide as a whole what it wanted to pursue and if it wanted to find other resources, both human and financial.

It was reported that the clerk, the facilities manager and Councillor Pollard had met CC's open spaces officers Jon James and Stuart Wallace at Pools Court. The HTC representatives were convinced that the open space could remain open space and it was established what Mr Blewett could and could not do. It was noted that the CC officers had put in writing a position everyone could work towards. The clerk agreed to forward the relevant email to all councillors for their information.

177 ACCOUNTS

- a) To approve the Income and Expenditure of the Council 2017/2018 as listed on Appendix B

Councillor Cocks raised several questions. He wanted to know why the town council was still using CORMAC to repair toilets and was informed that the maintenance repair officer was not on call at weekends and did not have the skills (he was not expected to) to carry out every job; therefore, some repairs still needed to be carried out by CORMAC. The water usage and cost was also queried as being extortionate and the clerk undertook to investigate and get back to him. Regarding the large electricity bill for the public toilets, she was able to inform him that this was a one-off bill as CC had not back charged the town council for over a year. She informed him that the town council engaged a broker who recommended changing utilities providers when appropriate. In answer to his question regarding the high cost of bank charges the clerk informed Councillor Cocks that this was due to the fact that the town council had until recently been obliged by its standing orders to write cheques, but that following changes to standing orders it was preparing its systems so that payments could be made by bacs in the near future.

The clerk undertook to follow up and look into all of the queries posed by Councillor Cocks and to report back to members.

It was resolved to approve the Income and Expenditure of the Council 2017/18 as listed on Appendix B.

178 TO APPROVE THE PRECEPT FOR 2018/2019 AS PER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RESOURCE COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 14 DECEMBER 2017

Councillor Capper gave a brief explanation of the figures and corresponding increase in the Precept.

It was resolved to approve the Precept for 2018/2019 in the sum of £439,742.

179 TO CONSIDER CORNWALL COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE FUTURE FUNDING OF CITIZENS ADVICE CORNWALL 2018/19 – 2020/21 AND TO COMPLETE THE RELATED SURVEY

Councillor Pollard gave a short history of the situation. CC had saved £300m and had to save another £75 million due to cuts imposed by the government. All budget headings had been looked at and the CAB had been told that it had to be self-funding in the future, along with other groups/charities such as the RNLI and St Petroc's. However, following criticism from the CAB, CC's Cabinet was looking at finding an annual grant of £153,000 for three years, or looking at providing support in kind, for example free office space at CC offices and back office administration. Councillor Pollard favoured the second option. He reported that CC wanted a clear arrangement with the CAB regarding what support, if any, would be available in future and added that the CAB had known that it was going to have its funding cut.

The clerk informed members that the town council had given the CAB free office space at the Community Centre and that she had been informed that the organisation needed more volunteers with the right experience and/or qualifications. Hayle residents had lost out as there

was no CAB representation in the town now. There was anecdotal evidence that the online survey and the printed survey differed in the first question: the online one included the option of maintaining the original grant of £350,000 but not the option of £135,000 funding per year for three years. It was considered likely that respondents would choose this option, which did not appear to be actually what CC was considering. It was agreed that the CAB provided a very important service to a vulnerable community, which also often faced travel expenses due to the reduced number of service locations. It was also noted that the CAB services were only available for two or three hours one day per week at each location and someone who needed help often had to wait weeks for an appointment. Concern was also expressed regarding the services that would be cut to provide the £153,000 under consideration and some councillors stated that it appeared to be a lot of money for such short opening hours.

Councillors agreed that more and more people were going to need the CAB service than ever before and that a waiting list of weeks was no help for someone in a crisis, but it was also recognised that the CAB should have been looking at other ways of raising money for the service when CC first announced it would be cutting its grant. It was clarified that although the face-to-face service providers were volunteers, the CAB had to pay its officers, administrators, for office space and for training.

The clerk agreed to promote the survey on the town council's website and Facebook page.

It was noted that there was a limited, appointment only, one day per month service for parents of under 16-year-olds in Hayle.

Councillor Wills added that there was an agency called SEAP Advocacy which had volunteers and paid advocates who could provide information and help. It was agreed that the town council could publicise its services.

It was resolved that councillors should complete the survey as individuals, if they so choose.

It was resolved to write to Cornwall Council to ask it to do all it can to retain the CAB service as it is needed by the many vulnerable people living in Hayle.

180 STANDING AGENDA ITEMS (FOR REPORTING ONLY)

a) Hayle Harbour Update

Councillor Pollard reported that during the recent peer review he had been impressed with the presentations from Claire Gibson of the Wave Hub and Matt Hodson, Marine Hub Cornwall Enterprise Zone Lead employed by the Cornwall Development Company, and that he had asked the clerk to arrange a meeting with them.

He informed members that a report suggesting what could be done regarding Hayle Harbour would come to Cabinet on 7 February 2018. CC had recognised that Hayle and its harbour had a good future and that CC needed to take an active role as the harbour's current owners were not interested in it. CC had applied for a grant to improve the infrastructure which would be required for housing. CC was doing due diligence with regard to purchasing the harbour from Corinthian Land Ltd and Councillor Pollard suggested that HTC should ask for an update from John Betty and Iain Mackelworth and invite them to a meeting with HTC before 7 February; the clerk advised that this was already underway. It was important to put pressure on CC to complete the purchase of the harbour so that it could build upon its already

significant investment and finally fulfil the promise of housing and jobs and future economic dividends for the area.

Councillor Mims was informed that only the owners of the harbour could make use of a grant from the Coastal Communities Fund, hence the urgency for CC to purchase it.

b) Cornwall Council Update

The Pools Court meeting referred to earlier in the meeting was mentioned again.

Councillor Pollard undertook to continue to put pressure on DCH regarding the tree situation discussed during public participation.

Councillor Farrar informed members that CC had updated their portal for uploading plans and that it was very good.

Councillor Pollard was informed that the identities of those who made planning enforcement complaints was not known.

c) Community Asset & Devolution of Services Update

The clerk reported that discussions regarding devolution of the Library had been put on hold as HTC was not taking it on until April 2019 and this allowed CC to concentrate its work on those councils taking over their libraries in the meantime. She had met the new responsible CC officer just before Christmas. It was agreed that Hayle Library would be maintained by CC until HTC took it over. There followed a discussion about when might be the best time to do the necessary repair work on the building, but no conclusion was reached as both early and late repairs had benefits.

d) Boundary Review Update

The clerk reported that HTC's views had been submitted to Matt Stokes at CC and he had responded that both options were in line with what CC officers had been thinking. She added that she had sent a copy of the relevant HTC minutes to GGPC for information.

181 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE/MEETINGS/INCIDENTALS

a) Meetings

04/01/18	7.15pm	Full Council	Assembly Room, Hayle Community Centre
08/01/18	6.30pm (officers available to discuss options from 4pm)	Cornwall Council Electoral Review Meeting (All details forwarded by email 04/01/18)	New County Hall, Truro

11/01/18	7.30pm	Hayle Harbour Committee POSTPONED, however please note that there will be meetings/presentations in near future to discuss the Wave Hub, Enterprise Zone and harbour issues.	
15/01/18	7.15pm	Hayle Twinning Association	Asda
18/01/18	7.30pm	CCTV Event - a visit from Tony Porter, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner for England and Wales	Tolvaddon, Fire and Rescue Service HQ
18/01/18	7.15pm	Full Council	Assembly Room, Hayle Community Centre
22/01/18	4.00pm	War Memorial Meeting	Assembly Room, Hayle Community Centre
24 or 25/01/18	7.30pm	Harbour Committee Meeting TBC	Assembly Room, Hayle Community Centre
25/01/18	7.30pm	Resource Committee TBC (see above)	Assembly Room, Hayle Community Centre
01/02/18	7.15pm	Full Council	Assembly Room, Hayle Community Centre
15/02/18	7.15pm	Full Council	Assembly Room, Hayle Community Centre
22/02/18	7.15pm	Dementia Friendly Communities Session TBC	Assembly Room, Hayle Community Centre

The clerk confirmed that the War Memorial meeting was provisional as she had not been able to confirm if Vanessa Luckwell was able to attend. She added that the facilities manager would be present at the meeting.

On the issue of the War Memorial, Councillor Pollard reported that he had that day received a sketch of the parking in front of Hayle Terrace, which he found underwhelming. The clerk undertook to circulate the email to all councillors.

The Dementia Friendly meeting had not yet been confirmed as the organiser was hoping to invite other interested parties.

b) Incidentals

It was stated that the incidentals were available on request.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Approved by the council as a true record, at its meeting 18 January 2018

Town Mayor

Date