

PADSTOW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held remotely on Tuesday 29 September 2020 at 6.30 pm

Present: C Watson-Smyth (Chairman), R Buscombe, K Freeman, R Higman, J O'Keefe, M Rickard, H M Saunders, Mrs A E Symons, D N Vivian and Mrs T Walter (late)

In Attendance: Mrs K Pemberton (Town Clerk), Mrs N Barnes (Financial Responsible Officer), Mrs S Daly (Support Officer and Minute Taker) and 4 members of the public (1 part)

2020/59 To receive apologies for absence and announcements:

- i) Apologies were received from Councillors A Flide and M Evans
- ii) Announcements: The Chairman reminded members the Planning Committee would be considering the Government's "Planning for the Future" consultation at its next meeting. The deadline for comments from all Councillors was Thursday 1 October 2020.

2020/60 Declarations of Interest:

- Councillor C Watson-Smyth declared an interest in agenda item 18 Update Rent Matters. Councillor Mrs T Walter was not present for declarations of interest but declared an interest in agenda 18 Update Rent Matters later in the meeting.
- **RESOLVED** to amend the agenda order by switching agenda item 18 Update Rent Matters with agenda item 20 Core Building Update.

2020/61 Dispensations: There were no dispensations.

2020/62 Public Participation: None.

- i) **Cornwall Councillors Report:** There was no report.
- ii) **Police Report:** The police report for the period 23.8.20 to 27.9.20 was noted. In attendance was Sergeant Sue Honeywill and PC Alex Allen. PC Allen introduced himself and his role and provided the following update to Council:
 - There had been a greater level of multiagency working in Padstow this season regarding various issues such as street trading and anti-social behaviour. The agencies [D&C Police, CC, Padstow Harbour Commissioners and Padstow Town Council] would continue to work together going forward and formulate a defined, named group. The group will meet once a month during the winter increasing to fortnightly during the summer;
 - Referring to the police report, it was noted that Padstow had seen a 200% increase in calls regarding anti-social behaviour. This increase was seen in other areas too and the majority of the calls were linked to COVID;

- Noted an increase in criminal damage and vandalism linked to vehicles parked in residential areas and roads. A few vehicles had been damaged in Netherton Road in particular. It appeared a myriad of tensions were rising regarding summer car parking.
- The area was incredibly busy with footfall and traffic, PC Allen considered it was possibly the busiest it had ever been and he reasoned this was likely to continue until at least the end of furlough.

Sergeant Honeywill addressed the meeting and advised:

- Pubwatch had been unable to meet due to COVID but that the group continue to work in good partnership.

Councillor R Buscombe expressed thanks to PC Allen for his "excellent" help over the summer.

2020/63 Minutes Tuesday 25 August 2020: RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held remotely on Tuesday 25 August 2020 be signed as a true record.

2020/64 Clerks Report: The Clerk's report was noted for information. Members expressed support for the Town Clerk approaching Cornwall Council to ascertain possible costs for undertaking patch work on the footpath at Stile Field whilst in the area in November.

2020/65 Committees/Working Group Meetings:

- a) **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held remotely on 8 September 2020;
- b) **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes and approve recommendations (if any) for the Staffing Committee meeting held remotely on 22 September 2020;
- c) **RESOLVED** to adopt the notes and approve recommendations (if any) for the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group meeting held on 15 September 2020.

2020/66 Finance: Monthly Accounts and Payments September 2020:

- a) The monthly finance report was noted for information. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) noted that there were more debtors than usual. She added that the car park takings for August were up by approx. £11,000 on the previous year with a similar increase looking likely for September.
- b) It was **RESOLVED** to i) ratify payments made August (b) of £2,781.48 and direct debits of £1,136.30; ii) to ratify payments made September (a) of £19,210.99, standing orders or direct debits (regular payments of the same amount) of £10,443.42 and direct debits of £3,424.72 and iii) to ratify payments made September (b) of £1,724.06 and direct debits of £6,961.29.
- c) Car park takings were noted.
- d) External Audit Report Update: It was noted that further to the agenda report, the deadline for advertising the external audit

report had been extended to 30 November 2020. The report would be brought to Full Council once received.

2020/67 Correspondence:

- a) Correspondence for information was noted.
- b) (i) Land Use Request – Railway Car Park: **RESOLVED** not to approve the request made by Tough Runner UK Ltd for use of the Railway Car Park from 14 to 15 May 2021.

(ii) Boundary Governance Review Latest: The update was noted for information. Cornwall Councillor Buscombe further added that subject to the decision of Cornwall Council's extraordinary meeting on 3 November 2020, it was expected that a decision regarding the outcome of the Padstow Parish review would be postponed until the new Council is elected in May 2021. It was noted that this was expected to be the case for all parishes in which there were differing views about the review. Reasons being, due to COVID it had not been possible to hold proper public consultations in this regard.

2020/68 Car Park Tariffs: Members were referred to the agenda report and the recommendation that the tariff be increased and set all year round to help mitigate losses caused by COVID and minimise any possible precept next year. It was noted that the car park tariffs had not been increased for a number of years due in part to the associated expense in doing so. Comment was made that it would be useful to see a projection of figures based on the recommended tariff using the data from previous ticket sales.

Concern was expressed that season tickets were too heavily subsidised. In response to a member query, the Town Clerk clarified that season ticket eligibility had been amended through work undertaken by the Highways, Roads and Transport Committee to i) tenants without dedicated parking, and ii) people working in the town. The RFO advised that only 4 of the 15 available season tickets had been sold. The Chairman of the Highways, Roads and Transport Committee noted that the changes and reduction to 15 had been an attempt to reduce season tickets to a reasonable number and that this could be further reduced. The agenda report highlighted and outlined costs associated with any changes to the tariff.

Further comments included:

- Concern that the loss of a low winter tariff would penalise locals who live further out of town and who need to use the car park;
- Concern was expressed about the perception of an all year round tariff during the winter months when there were no visitors

The Town Clerk observed that Padstow no longer appeared to have a "season" with only November and January being quiet. Furthermore, anecdotally we were hearing that holiday accommodation and businesses were looking much busier this year than in previous years.

RESOLVED to update the car park tariffs for Town Council car parks as soon as practicable in 2020 (ideally from 1.11.20) and that these be set all year round, 24 hours, 7 days a week as follows:

- i) Car park fees: £1 for 1 hour, £3 for 2 hours, £4 for 3 hours, £6 for 4 hours, £8 for 12 hours and £10 for 24 hours;
- ii) Coach fees: £8 for up to 4 hours;
- iii) Excess charges to remain the same at £80 reduced to £40 if paid within timeframe directed;
- iv) Season ticket fee to remain the same at £480 inclusive of VAT.

FURTHER THAT the tariffs be reviewed 1 year from the start of the increase.

2020/69 Update Town Opening: The Town Clerk noted that the multiagency group had worked well together and the Railway Car Park had provided a conduit for vehicle traffic. The group were meeting in October to review the summer season. She noted that on her last few visits to the town she had not seen any street traders.

Councillor Buscombe echoed the Clerks comments and considered that this year had been the best ever for joint working between agencies and thanked all those involved. It was noted that Councillor Buscombe represented both Cornwall Council and the Town Council on the group and in view of this, Councillor Freeman volunteered to join the group solely as a Town Councillor.

At the invitation of the Chairman, PC Allen joined the discussion and advised that the group were looking to formalise the working arrangement together with a formal name. He agreed with the Town Clerk that the biggest thing of note was the reduction in street traders on the bandstand area. PC Allen noted that the group discussions had helped to facilitate action quickly and felt its continuation was important.

2020/70 Reports from Members/Outside Organisations: Councillor Vivian noted that the winners of the Persimmon Homes' grant that Padstow Sea Cadets had been competing for would be announced next week.

2020/71 Future Meeting Dates And Date of Next Meeting: Date of next meeting: Tuesday 27 October 2020 at 6.30pm and future meeting dates were noted.

- 2020/72** It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public due to the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.
- 2020/73** **Confidential Minutes Tuesday 25 August 2020: RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held remotely on Tuesday 25 August 2020 be signed as a true record.
- 2020/74** **Staffing Committee Confidential Minutes: RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes and approve the recommendations (if any) for the Staffing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2020.
- 2020/75** **Staffing Committee Report:** See confidential minutes.
- 2020/76** **Core Building Update:** See confidential minutes.
- 2020/77** **Lease/Tenant Issues:** See confidential minutes.
- 2020/78** **Update Rent Matters:** See confidential minutes.

Meeting closed at 7.43 pm