

LISKEARD TOWN COUNCIL

AT A MEETING of the **COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 6 August 2013 there were present:

The Mayor Councillor Susan Pike - in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor Councillor Phil Seeva ex officio

Councillors; Lorna Shrubsole, James Shrubsole, Sally Hawken, Roger Holmes, Anne Purdon, Jane Pascoe, Hella Tovar and Rachel Brooks.

Town Clerk - Mr Andrew Deacon

Minute Clerk - Mr Stuart Houghton

Members of the Public: None

184/13 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

185/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made either Pecuniary or Non Pecuniary.

186/13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

The Mayor called for nominations for the Chairman of Committee. Councillor L. Shrubsole proposed and Councillor Pascoe seconded Councillor Brooks for the position. Councillor Brooks accepted the nomination and there being no other nominations Councillor Brooks was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Committee.

Councillor Brooks took the Chair.

187/13 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

The Chairman called for nominations for the Deputy Chairman of Committee. The Mayor proposed Councillor L. Shrubsole who said she was pleased to be nominated but would propose the Deputy Mayor, seconded by Councillor Pascoe, for the position. If the Deputy Mayor would accept the nomination she would stand down. The Deputy Mayor accepted the nomination and as there were no other nominations he was unanimously elected Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

188/13 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Mayor circulated, for discussion, the proposed Terms of Reference for the Committee, a copy is attached. The Priorities set for the Council were not included

but would feed in, and the inclusion of items that had not been highlighted in the Option B presented to the Council were mentioned. The discussions included the Town Crier Newsletter, the Council's website, Street Furniture, Signage, Grants, Car Parking, Events and Plotolders/Allotments.

It was agreed that Grants would be a matter for the Finance Committee, that the Allotments, Street Furniture and Market should be the responsibility of the Property Committee and item 'g' be transferred to the Planning Committee. The Communication and Engagement Committee would also be responsible for the Council's Website and Trailer. Traffic problems and Car Parking would be the responsibility of the full Council

The Town Clerk said that the Council could not hold events, but could support Civic Events such as the Olympic Torch and Queen's Jubilee. Now that the Terms of Reference were known, all Committee budgets could be changed, but there could be some overlap.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that the Council to adopt the Terms of Reference with the above amendments.

189/13 DEVELOPMENT OF CAR PARK PROPOSALS

The Chairman circulated a paper (attached) as a starting point for the discussion and asked for any questions.

In response to Councillor Pascoe, Councillor Hawken said that a recent statement by Cornwall Council indicated that they thought they were meeting the requirements of the Framework to improve, and set reasonable charges for, car parking.

The Mayor said that the major concern of the public was that there was not a reasonable short term charge. Councillor Pascoe said that the Traders were happy with the £1 for two hours charge. The Chairman asked the Committee if they agreed that the proposals should be cost neutral to Cornwall Council, this was agreed. Councillor Hawken said that if a 60p per hour charge was introduced, this would increase the two hour parking charge. Councillor Purdon asked why towns had different parking charges to which Councillor Hawken replied that they were banded by Cornwall Council, we were not a tourist area, therefore we were not charged at the tourist rate. Also many car parks in other towns were not owned by Cornwall Council so the charge rate could vary.

Councillor Hawken said that she was in receipt of Cornwall Councils costs of operating the car parks which would assist the Council if it wished to pursue the previous Councils idea of taking over the car parks from Cornwall Council.

Councillor Holmes said that he got the impression at County Hall that Cornwall Council would not wish to dispose of the car parks, but might let them on a 99 year lease, if this was done, Councillors could increase or decrease the hourly charge. The Town Clerk mentioned the recent case of Barnett Council being in breach of the Road Traffic Act 1984 which allowed charges to be made for on street parking.

Councillor Hawken said that Barnett Council were not going to appeal the decision. Cornwall Council did not have a similar problem as they did not make a profit from residents permits.

The Mayor mentioned that she was concerned about the bus subsidy, was this funded by Cornwall Council from the car park revenue?

The use of the car parks in the Town varied, the location of the long term parking seemed to put people off using them. The take up of season tickets was very low and Councillor Tovar said that the Rapsons car park was almost empty all day, she suggested that a charge of £1 all day would be suitable for this car park. Councillor Hawken said that a trial at Launceston showed that when the cost of a season ticket was reduced the take up increased.

It was suggested that the Committee look at the use of the car parks for three groups, Shoppers and Traders, Workers and Residents.

Shoppers and Traders

It was thought that shoppers and traders would like to see more short term parking. Reports had been received that indicated that the changes in Bay Tree were working. A request that the Council support a similar scheme in the Market Street and Church Street area had been received, the Committee agreed that the Town Clerk's response to the latter to include the fact that this will be included in the consultation being carried out. Councillor Pascoe confirmed that there was now a good turnover of cars parking in Bay Tree and Councillor J. Shrubsole asked if the fines imposed for overstaying covered the cost of administering the on street parking. Councillor Hawken said that figures received from Cornwall Council indicated that a 'free after three' parking scheme in the car parks would cause Cornwall Council a loss of revenue of around £24k. Saltash Council had used Section 106 monies to support their car parks, could this Council afford to do this from their Precept. A loyalty scheme would not affect the car park rates but the Traders and the Chamber of Commerce were interested in working together to consider this type of scheme to reduce the cost of parking for residents. In response to Councillor L. Shrubsole The chairman said that the Town Team had approached the Traders and Chamber of Commerce, with the Co-op who were interested in leading a scheme for shopper's refunds. Councillor J. Shrubsole said we should consider Tourists, they might visit premises, such as the Museum, that might not be in the scheme. We should ask for Cornwall Councils results of the £1 all day on Saturday trials, and work up cost neutral schemes to present to them.

Workers

Councillor Hawken wondered how many workers were aware of the facilities offered by Cornwall Council for parking season tickets, a total of only 12 had been taken out this year for the Sun Girt and Rapsons car parks. The Mayor said that season ticket holders had mentioned it would be better if the season tickets were transferrable between car parks. Councillor Hawken said that when the tickets were purchased, up to four car parks could be nominated for the ticket, but the charge would be based on the most expensive parking rate.

Residents

The Mayor said that there were strong feelings in the Town about people parking in residential areas to avoid paying parking fees. The Chairman said that this was the result of the parking charges, if the Council got the charges correct this problem would reduce. Councillor Holmes said that he had witnessed people in the Museum rushing back to their cars as their time had expired.

The next steps would be to survey and consult.

Shoppers

It was suggested that the Town Team be asked to co-operate and to consult with Traders and Shoppers. They were meeting next week. Close liaison would be required to ensure that the questionnaires used for the various groups related to each other. The Chairman said that she would prepare questionnaires and e-mail them to Councillors, Councillor Hawken suggested that it should be worded in such a way that each person completing the questionnaire would only get one response. She added that the Co-op had surveyed their workers, the response indicated that they could not afford the parking charges. Councillor Purdon said that she had previously delivered questionnaires by hand to all businesses in the Parade, someone else had collected the completed forms.

Residents

The questionnaire for the residents would be inserted in the next edition of the Town Crier. Councillor Hawken said she was concerned about the current level of dissatisfaction about car parking, The Chairman said that this Council needed a bench mark to work to.

190/13 PUBLICISING THE TOWN COUNCILS WORK

The Deputy Mayor reported that the design of the next edition of the Town Crier was complete and the Editorial was prepared, this edition would have colour covers and black and white internal pages. Text for reports from the Chairpersons of the previous Council's Committees, and charts of last year's finances were still outstanding, the deadline was Friday 16 August 2013. He confirmed to the Chairman that there would be room for the parking questionnaire to be included in this issue.

Councillor Hawken asked about the method of delivery, she was not happy that the Cornish Times would fulfil our requirements to ensure all in the Town received a copy. The Deputy Mayor said that the Newsletter should also be available from key points in the Town such as the Library and Museum, and also be available on line.

Councillor L. Shrubsole asked about the best way to use the trailer and it's insurance, it was agreed that The Mayor and the Chairman would agree a programme and report to the next meeting. The discussion about the Website would also be included at the next meeting.

191/13 PROMOTING THE TOWN

To be discussed at the next meeting.

192/13 TIC REPORT

The TIC report, attached, was noted.

It was agreed that the use of Facebook by the TIC manager should be allowed to publicise the TIC.

193/13 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

194/13 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

The Deputy Mayor said that one person should be nominated to be the point of contact by the Press to ensure continuity of reports. The Town Clerk said that this must be the Mayor, as Leader of the Council; she was aware of all issues and was responsible for dealing with them. The Mayor agreed to this and the Deputy Mayor said he would bring the bones of a communication strategy to the next meeting.

195/13 PART II

There were no items to discuss under Part II.

196/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Communication and Engagement Committee meeting would be at 7.30 pm on the 3 September 2013.