

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **Annual Town Meeting** held on Thursday 7 March 2019 at 6.00 p.m. in the Shire House Suite, Shire House, Bodmin

PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor S H Kinsman, presiding; together with Councillors E Ahearn, P Brown, J A Bassett, A J Coppin, J P Cooper, P T Cooper, J R Gibbs, D A Henderson, A M Kerridge, K J Phillips, L F Sanders and P L G Skea.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr S Facer (Town Clerk), Mrs A Banks (Responsible Finance Officer), Mr P Martin (Executive Support Officer) and Mrs B Briggs (Senior Admin Assistant).

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES:

The Chairman introduced herself and invited all Councillors present to introduce themselves.

The Chairman provided an overview of the meeting, explaining that it was different from a normal Council meeting in that Councillors were not in attendance to make decisions at the meeting and the meeting was for the purpose of providing information to the public. She noted that members of the public had been invited to send questions in advance of the meeting, and these would be addressed first. Members/Officers may not be in a position to answer questions received at the meeting and not provided in advance, but they would be noted and a response issued via the Council website in due course.

Apologies had been received from Councillors L L Frost, J Gammon and K W Stubbs.

ATM/2019/001 **Waste and Recycling Community Engagement – Presentation by Mr Peter Blenard, Waste and Recycling Community Support Officer for East Cornwall – Cornwall Council Environment Service**

Mr Blenard explained that he had been invited to the meeting to talk about waste and resource provision in Bodmin. He also introduced his colleague Esther O'Bearagh. He then presented a slideshow, which is attached to the minutes of the meeting.

He reported that the current team structure, as outlined in the slides, had been in place for around 6 months. It was his role to engage with the community in East Cornwall including Bodmin. Under his remit was promotion of waste reduction, recycling and reuse, having found that there is a wish from the public to understand how these processes works.

Members of the public questioned the output of the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre. Mr Blenard confirmed that this facility was currently burning rubbish but was not producing energy at the moment. He reported that the site would be going offline for 6 weeks in the near future in order to replace the turbine, during which time, waste would be exported to landfill in Devon. Following those works, the site would be operational.

Mr Blenard reported that the ash produced at the site was used for producing tarmac which was used in the road making process. He added that a lot of materials were recovered and reused.

Mr Blenard addressed the current issue of food waste as a large proportion of recyclable waste was currently disposed of in black bags. He reported that, the following April, a new contract would be implemented whereby recycling collections

would be made weekly rather than fortnightly and that food recycling would be introduced, with residents being provided with food caddies.

Mr Blenard then welcomed questions from the public, which he and Esther O'Bearagh addressed as follows:

Food disposal – A Member of the public enquired as to whether biodegradable bags will be provided with the new food caddies when they are introduced. Ms O'Bearagh advised that the current intention was to provide bags, but this was not a definite decision as yet.

Fly-tipping – There was a feeling that, should costs of using the tip be lowered, fly-tipping would be discouraged. Ms O'Bearagh noted that the majority of fly-tipping currently occurring is of a commercial nature which would have been charged for, even before other charges were brought in.

Missed Collections – Ms O'Bearagh informed members of the public that they should report missed collections and that Biffa were obliged to come back. Some residents felt that this hadn't been the case in the past or did not feel it was clear as to the best way to report a missed collection.

Black Plastic – There was some discussion around the fact that black plastic cannot be recycled with members of the public querying why black plastic was used in this case. Mr Blenard commented that some retail outlets may choose black plastic due to aesthetic purposes but that members of the public should continue to lobby these outlets should they wish a change to this practice and encourage the development of alternatives. Members of the public also considered the option of 'voting with their feet' and choosing not to purchase such items.

Bodmin HWRC (Lanivet site) – The possibility of incorporating the opportunity of reuse was raised. A member of the public would like the opportunity for residents to leave good quality items in a separate area (rather than placing in skips) where people can take them away. Ms O'Bearagh commented that there were significant health and safety considerations involved but that they would consider this feedback.

Headline cost per household of service provision – The fact in the presentation stating that 'It costs about £205 per household to provide waste and recycling collection and disposal, this includes street and beach cleansing, HWRC's, operating the CERC and providing bring bank network' was queried, with the resident asking for clarification as to whether this figure takes into account the revenue generated at the waste incinerator at St Dennis. Ms O'Bearagh confirmed that this was the cost after allowing for that income.

Litter picking – A member of the public raised the amount of litter in and around Bodmin collected by the BlueTiTs (Bodmin Tidy it Team). It was queried as to whether the Biffa litter picker's time is being put to best use as the feeling was that the majority of his time appears to be spent on Fore Street. (Ms O'Bearagh responded that all streets are zoned, with Fore Street being Zone 1 meaning that it was high priority and that, if not kept up to standard, Biffa would be fined. She noted that other streets have cleaning schedules and that, if there was a specific issue, to inform Cornwall Council in order for them to explore further.

St Dennis closure – It was queried as to who would be liable for the cost of taking refuse to Devon whilst the St Dennis facility is out of commission. Ms O’Bearagh responded that this would be worked out between Cornwall Council and Suez but that she was not in position to make a statement without the full facts.

Wheelie bin provision – It queried as to whether the new contractor would have the capacity to empty wheelie bins directly into the refuse truck, rather than having to gather black bags at the roadside and place them in the truck individually as is the case currently. It was also queried as to whether new wheelie bins would be provided to residents under the new contract. Mr Blenard confirmed that the new trucks would indeed have this capacity and that new bins would be distributed.

Commercial waste – It was felt that disposal of commercial waste is difficult and that this matter should be addressed in the new contract and that nationwide unification was important and should be addressed as a Government strategy. (Ms O’Bearagh commented that a draft waste strategy was currently being explored by Cornwall Council and that she felt the collection systems differing was not necessarily a problem if all Councils are collecting the same items.

There being no further questions, Mr Blenard and Ms O’Bearagh left the meeting at 6.50pm.

ATM/2019/002 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 8 March 2018.**

There were no matters arising and these minutes were approved and passed for signing.

ATM/2018/003 – Page 5, Question 1 – Dog fouling at Hillside Park – The Town Clerk updated that a project recently commenced with Cornwall Council whereby posters were to be put up. Currently, baseline figures were being collected in order to appraise the efficacy of the project. The first batch of posters had been purchased from Keep Britain Tidy at a discounted special offer rate. He noted that the initiative would be published on the Town Council’s Facebook page and website once launched.

ATM/2018/003 – Page 5, Question 3 – Open Spaces Protection – It was noted that this matter would hopefully be progressed through the potential Neighbourhood Plan and also in terms of registering Council land as per Bodmin Town Council’s Aims & Objectives.

ATM/2018/003 – Page 6, Question 4 – Use of granite slabs from the Bodmin Growth Deal road works – The Town Clerk reported that some slabs had been used in park flowerbeds and others were earmarked for use on the new skate park site. Other options were still under consideration.

ATM/2018/003 – Page 6, Question 5 – Dark Skies light pollution – The Chairman noted that a YouTube video had been released the previous day which had been produced in order to promote Bodmin, including encouraging people to look at moorland and dark skies. She noted that the video would be promoted on the Council’s Facebook page and website. (This video can be viewed online at: <https://youtu.be/KcL8fUOnYk0>).

ATM/2018/003 – Page 6, Question 7 – BTC Property / Room hire – The

Chairman reported that hire charges of external spaces had been reviewed, and that the Council was in the process of reviewing charges of internal spaces.

Councillor K J Phillips commented, as Chair of the Shire House Working Party, that her working party was looking into future uses of the Shire House Suite and that she would welcome comments and ideas from members of the public in this regard. She invited those present to get in touch with her to provide feedback.

ATM/2019/003 **Questions from Members of the Public**

The Chairman outlined that the questions received in advance would be addressed first, before opening the floor to questions in the meeting. She reiterated that answers to questions not received in advance may need to be provided outside the meeting once Officers had been given the opportunity to seek any information required.

Hillside Park – A member of the public wished to receive an update on the negotiations regarding the lease of the land at Hillside Park to Bodmin Jail. The Town Clerk reported that the Council have signed a lease with the Jail for them to progress works on the Car Park. In the interim, he reported that BTC was also in discussion with Cornwall Council and the developer about alleviating the current parking issues.

Section 106 monies – A member of the public sought confirmation from BTC that it was receiving the monies arising from developments in the town. The Town Clerk advised that there was an extensive list of planning consents which would generate S106 monies but noted that these monies were not released until completion of works. He reported that some monies have already been collected, with some to be allocated once money comes available. The member of the public wished to know if it was true that a Neighbourhood Plan would allow Bodmin to receive more money.

Councillor J P Cooper commented that the additional availability of funds related to the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). His understanding from a meeting he had attended recently was that 15% of this levy, which would be payable by developers, will come to community and that, if a Neighbourhood Plan was in place Bodmin could receive up to 25% on future developments but noted that this would not affect sites already allocated.

Tree Felling – A member of the public queried the felling of trees in the town and was concerned about the effect on flooding. The Town Clerk advised that some trees require removal due to historical inappropriate planting. With regards to trees on BTC properties, he advised that BTC only cut trees down if a tree safety inspection indicates that requirement and its policy is to plant replacements whenever possible. He advised that BTC also has an independent arboreal report carried out. He commented that BTC cannot keep a tree in a public area that has been recommended for removal but that felling was a last resort.

Mr C Bell commented that the Rotary Club had donated 100 native trees to BTC to be used in future years. The Town Clerk commented that whips were currently being brought on at the BTC polytunnel site and would be introduced into public areas when at an appropriate size. He added that the Parks Team looked to achieve a mixture of trees to include native species and to ensure interest throughout the year.

A member of the public commented that a number of trees appeared to be coming down as part of developments in the town and enquired as to how Bodmin was going to manage this process. The Chairman responded to advise that, should there be a tree or trees with Tree Preservation Orders on them, these would be considered as part of the planning application, of which BTC was a consultee but Cornwall Council made all final decisions.

The Town Clerk commented that further information could be found on Cornwall Council's website. He also noted that, whenever BTC wishes to undertake works to trees in a conservation area, it is required to apply to Cornwall Council for planning consent. He added that Cornwall Council Planners have Forestry Officers who will review applications.

A member of the public commented that, whilst he was not aware of TPOs on trees on Halgavor Moor, he believed that there had been an order from the Government War Office that was still in place.

Neighbourhood Plan – Mrs C Howard wished to speak in relation to the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Bodmin. She felt that the majority of the public was in favour of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and requested from Councillors that, when they came to vote on this matter they consider what the public want.

The Chairman commented that a proportional response was required. She noted that there are approximately 15,000 residents in Bodmin and each Councillor would consider their ward members. She added that further work was required on the costings of the plan before it could be taken forward for further consideration by Council.

Councillor J P Cooper commented that, should any residents wish to make further comments on the proposed Plan, Councillor J A Bassett was holding a surgery on Saturday morning. The member of the public and Councillor Cooper would speak after the meeting to make arrangements to promote the details of this surgery.

Coldharbour Sports Pitch – Mr Bell wished to enquire as to whether the new lease between BTC and Bodmin Youth Football Club would allow public use of the site as he felt that the lease could be restrictive. The Chairman responded to advise that the site was currently for club use and that the new lease would be on the same terms, so there would be no change in access.

Courtroom experience – Mr Bell wished to enquire as to whether the Courtroom experience was going to continue to be available. The Chairman responded to advise that BTC was currently going through the process of reviewing its services and looking at provision of its services, including the Courtroom Experience, into the future and how the Shire Hall building can best serve the community. She advised that the animatronics currently installed were reaching the end of their useful life and BTC was looking at how to future proof the Shire Hall provision going forward and how to work with other stakeholders in Bodmin to promote the town and its attractions/services.

The Chairman commented that Cornwall Council and BTC were working with Bodmin College to looking at Bodmin branding more generally. As noted under item ATM/2019/002 earlier in the meeting, a YouTube video had recently been produced and would be shared on the BTC website the following day.

Sarah Sims, Bodmin Community Link Officer at Cornwall Council, commented that she had been working with students at Bodmin College, trying to develop a brand for the town, with the difficulty being how the town want to see and present itself. She commented that a pop-up event had been conducted which asked residents how they see Bodmin and that people wanted to see Bodmin's history reflected but balanced with more contemporary branding. The project had started by looking at attractions on offer in Bodmin and coming up with images to reflect these.

Ms Sims reported that the branding had been used at a stall at the 2018 British Tourism & Travel Show, which a team attended to promote Bodmin as a tourist destination. That same branding had also been used to produce the mural now in place at the bottom of Honey Street. The next project was to erect lamppost banners with the same brand imagery throughout the town. She commented that there was more work to be done in terms of engaging local businesses and that the branding team were also working on merchandise using the same branding designs.

Mrs Sims commented that the video referred to by the Chairman had been released that week. It was 80 seconds long and was designed to be shared and viewed on social media. She was also hoping to speak to Merlin cinemas with regards to showing the video at the start of film screenings. She urged members of the public to view the video and commented that she felt the team involved had done an incredible job.

Town cleanliness – Mr Bell wished to speak in relation to the general appearance of the town and was of the opinion that Cornwall Council are not weeding and look after flowerbeds or cleaning street signs. He felt that, without the volunteers who undertake these tasks the town's appearance would worsen. He considered that, as there was less funding available to provide these services, it was up to the people of the town to take pride in their town and volunteer to help where possible and that Cornwall Council might be inclined to support such initiatives.

Mr Bell then raised the issue of graffiti. It was noted that Cornwall Council and BTC address instances of graffiti on their properties, but that they were unable to take action where the damage was inflicted on private buildings and that it was the responsibility of the building owner to address this.

Tour of Britain – Members of the public considered the possibility that the first stage of the Tour of Britain might be coming to Bodmin in 2020 and that this would be a highlight on the calendar. The Chairman commented that, should this happen, there would be a working group of stakeholders set up, with the aim of maximising the opportunity for Bodmin and also looking at how to make the event sustainable.

Regimental Museum exhibition – A member of the public commented that the museum was looking to curate an exhibition around the women's land army and were asking for anyone who might have relevant information or souvenirs to contact the curator of museum.

Bd-UE2 Site Allocation Development Plan Document (DPD) – Members of the public wished to raise their concerns over the recent adoption of the DPD which included Halgavor Moor. They were disappointed that, despite the public representation against the allocation, Cornwall Councillors chose to vote in its

favour. The Chairman explained that the adoption of the allocation did not constitute planning consent and that any planning application being submitted by a developer would be considered on its own merits in due course. She reiterated that BTC was a consultee and would therefore submit comments on any planning applications and that Members were required to stay impartial at this point in order not to preclude themselves from future voting.

Members of the public expressed their displeasure that the Cornwall Councillor representative on BTC had not voted against the document and felt that this was not representative of the will of residents. The Chairman commented that the Councillor in question was not present at this meeting and therefore not in a position to defend this decision and it was therefore not appropriate to progress the discussion. However, she commented that such matters have to be considered in terms of the material considerations, in addition to the representations received from the public. The Town Clerk added that there was a mismatch between the issues that are important to residents, and how the local authority is required to interpret what the legislation and national planning policy dictates.

Members of the public felt that the decision to adopt the DPD reduced the level of faith they could have in Members to refuse planning applications on the site in future and felt that Cornwall Council would approve plans despite objection from BTC. The Chairman explained that, in matters of planning, there must be a valid material planning consideration to justify the rejection of an application and she reiterated that BTC comments would be submitted and considered along with those from all other consultees before a decision was made by the Cornwall Council Planning Department.

Mr Bell expressed concern that the levels of affordable housing required in new developments would have the effect of reducing the precept available to BTC.

Councillor J P Cooper commented that the DPD had allocated the necessary level of social housing and that his understanding was that any developments not included in the DPD should therefore not be expected to provide social housing. He commented that such concerns could be identified within a Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Clerk commented that Neighbourhood Plans were intended more as pre-development documents and that the Council would need to be clear on what shape it wanted any Plan to take.

The number of houses allocated in the DPD was then discussed. Members of the public were concerned about the infrastructure in Bodmin and how it would cope, especially in terms of services and roads. Councillor P T Cooper commented that Members were aware of these concerns and that they had all been identified and raised with Cornwall Council.

Councillor J P Cooper commented that the way for residents to make a difference was to continue to petition Cornwall Councillors and their MP in order to keep the issues at the forefront with the hope of changing the regulations.

Flowerbeds – A member of the public wished to thank the volunteers who had planted the daffodil bulbs in the town, and for the volunteer litter-picking efforts. The Chairman noted that this had been a joint effort with BTC who had donated 5,000 bulbs.

Bodmin Growth Deal Works lighting – Mr Bell commented that he had heard that the lights within the low speed environment were to be brightened. His understanding was that the lights would be 50% more than national transport standard. He was concerned in relation to the Dark Skies area in place on Bodmin Moor. The Chairman commented that there were concerns around safety in terms of the visibility on the roads and that there is a conflict between different people wanting different outcomes.

A member of the public commented that there was a streetlight outside their house and that it would be of great inconvenience should this be brightened. They felt they had not been consulted before erection of the light. The Chairman advised that they should take this up with Cornwall Council.

Antisocial Behaviour – A member of the public expressed their concern regarding antisocial behaviour occurring on Honey Street. The Chairman enquired as to whether the member of the public had reported the behaviour to the police at the time. She confirmed that she had not. The Chairman advised that the police require statistics on incidences of antisocial behaviour and crime in order to allocate resources, so it was important to report any such activity. The Town Clerk added that if the antisocial behaviour was linked to a licensed premise, it should also be reported to Cornwall Council who could investigate from a licensing perspective.

Members of the public considered that the difficulty in getting through to an operator via 101 was prohibitive to reporting crime. Councillors advised that matters could also be reported via the Devon and Cornwall Police website.

Councillor J A Bassett commented that there had been a surgery at the Old Library the previous Saturday and there was another one on the coming Saturday involving Town Councillors and representatives from the police. The Town Clerk noted that Officers would be happy to publicise these events via the BTC website and Facebook page if the details were shared with staff.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending the meeting.

ATM/2018/003 **Any other urgent / relevant items which the Chairman considers appropriate**

There being no other items for discussion, the meeting closed at 7.47 p.m.