

BODMIN ANNUAL TOWN MEETING



MINUTES

THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2022 AT 6.00 P.M.

Members present: Cllr J Cooper, Cllr K Philips, Cllr P Skea, Cllr T M Barbery, Cllr H Blacklaw, Cllr G Mountcastle, Cllr P Brown, Cllr B Crowle, Cllr D Henderson, Cllr P T Cooper.

Officers present: P Martin (Town Clerk), S Martin (Senior Admin Assistant), A Bright (CSM/ATC)

Others Present: County Cllr P Rogerson and 3 members of public.

Meeting Start time: 18.00pm

1 Mayor/Chairman's Announcements and Apologies

There were no announcements.

Apology received from Cllr E Ahearn.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting (11 March 2021)

It was RESOLVED

To agree the accuracy of the Annual Town Meeting minutes 11th March 2021.

3 Questions from Members of the Public

See questions 1-10 received prior to the meeting, along with answers.

Extra response from other Members.

Q1. What would the Council say was their achievements over the past year?

Cllr J Cooper – Tour of Britain was a success for the Community of Bodmin, it delivered great respect from surrounding Councils and provided a solid foundation to developing further related events which is being followed by other bodies using BTC processes.

Park and open space improvements including new bedding schemes which have set a higher level of quality and standards which were admired by other local Councils and public alike. We have received numerous appreciation emails congratulating the Council on this success.

The Council has reviewed its staff and committee structure to enhance and deliver greater efficiencies within the organisation. More emphasis is placed on new policy implementation to encourage greater community engagement, all evidenced by new consultation processes including Berryfields, Moor View, Neighbourhood Plan, Town Revitalization application, engagement events via Tour of Britain, ongoing consultation via Community Services review of the Shire Hall entrance to attract research opportunities for establishing what the people of Bodmin wish to see happen in their Town. In addition, further engagement regarding Civic awards via Bodmin Life and the Council facilitation of a military event / village as part of the Tour of Britain provided employment and engagement opportunities.

Bodmin Town Council has, as part of its review drive, introduced a new website explained in question two response. A great deal of work has been done in respect of refurbishment scoping for necessary work required in the Shire Hall, Shire House, and other buildings in order to meet compliance with the health and safety Act 1974. Due to historic, long-term neglect of the buildings fabric the Council is likely to spend upwards of 1.5 million pounds on bring them into the 21st Century, making them safe and fit for purpose.

Achievements

Community Services

Events: Tour of Britain, Rifles Retreat, Remembrance, Wassail, St Piran's Day parade.

Collaboration: Collaboration with Into Bodmin to facilitate a Christmas performance at Shire Hall.

Free use of facilities for Narissa Hall to launch Discovering 42 - an arts and discovery centre.

Partnering with Chamber of Commerce for a Welcome Back Fund application, sourcing equipment to the value of up to £25,000 which encourages people safely back to the High Street.

Collaboration with Town Team to develop and progress the successful Town Revitalisation Fund application of £80,000.

Supporting the Bodmin Christmas Lights Committee.

Working closely with Bodmin Town Museum to facilitate reopening and to support its accreditation process.

Supporting the Government's Kickstart Scheme by offering opportunities for two 25-hour placements for young people struggling to find work.

Bookings at around 90% return of pre Covid rates. Working with different target audiences to offer bookings for events and functions not previously utilised such as yoga, birthday parties and youth provisions.

Working with volunteers for the first time, including the creation of a policy to enhance Council function. At the moment we mainly work with our volunteers for events but are hoping to look at other areas such as parks maintenance and visitor enhancement.

Working with local groups and organisations to create engagement events for event management and planning.

Working and liaising with local groups and organisations to develop relationships and look to collaborate, partner with, and facilitate future projects.

Working with new organisations to become a collection point or donation station, such as RSPCA and the very recent Ukraine support, with a view to expand this going forward.

Other: Restructuring of the current reception and Community Services Team to create a destination community signposting and support centre (still currently being developed) with a view to becoming the go to destination for information, engagement and support for residents, businesses, visitors, and the whole community.

Ongoing training and development within the Community Services team to train and upskill according to community needs.

Ongoing relationship building and establishing links with hard to reach areas of the community.

Increasing public perception through engagement, live and relevant communication.

Estates

Bedding Plants, completion of Skate Park, Work Wallet, Llawnroc car park management, Car park resurfacing.

Repairs to roof and internal supporting structure of St Lawrences memorial clock. Parks and open spaces- new bedding scheme. New planters down turf street, hanging baskets on the Folly. Received several emails expressing appreciation for the hanging baskets.

Q2. Do the Council feel that the Council Web site is good enough to give information to the residents? Particularly the news section?

Cllr J Cooper - Website Summary: -

Most public sector websites and mobile apps do not currently meet accessibility requirements. For example, a study by the Society for innovation, technology and modernisation found that 4 in 10 local council homepages failed basic tests for accessibility.

Common problems include websites that are not easy to use on a mobile or cannot be navigated using a keyboard, inaccessible PDF forms that cannot be read out on screen readers, and poor colour contrast that makes text difficult to read - especially for visually impaired people

WCAG 2.1 design principles: -

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 defines how to make Web content more accessible to people with disabilities. Accessibility involves a wide range of disabilities, including visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive, language, learning, and neurological disabilities. Although these guidelines cover a wide range of issues, they are not able to address the needs of people with all types, degrees, and combinations of disability. These guidelines also make Web content more usable by older individuals with changing abilities due to aging and often improve usability for users in general.

WCAG 2.1 is based on 4 design principles:

- perceivable
- operable

- understandable
- robust

By focusing on principles, not technology, they emphasise the need to think about the different ways that people interact with content. For example, users might:

- use a keyboard instead of a mouse
- change browser settings to make content easier to read
- use a screen reader to 'read' (speak) content out loud
- use a screen magnifier to enlarge part or all of a screen
- use voice commands to navigate a website

The principles apply to all aspects of service (including code, content, and interactions), which means all members of the team need to understand and consider them (this is currently ongoing as a training rollout – beginning with the administration team).

Accessibility Statement

Bodmin Town Council is committed to providing a website that is accessible to the widest possible audience, regardless of technology or ability.

We developed this new website in 2021 and will continue to work to increase the accessibility and usability of our website as revised guidelines are introduced over time to improve standards further, and with developments in available technology.

Bodmin Town Council requires that:

- All new web pages should be written to at least AA standard.
- All existing pages should meet at least A standard. Pages will be brought up to AA standard as they are periodically revised.
- Any third party who is engaged to design and build web pages for the council, hosted within the *.bodmin.gov.uk domain, will be required to comply with these guidelines. Sites will be checked periodically.
- New content will be either written or edited in such a way to ensure it is written as clearly as possible. Legacy content will be re-edited where necessary as it is revised.

Ongoing/upcoming developments: -

The creation of a second main page which is community driven – we will carry out a workshop with residents/community to find out what is wanted and needed from the site.

The implementation of electronic newsletters.

The ability to book facilities online.

A survey portal/ability to electronically complete surveys

An ability to register to the website to receive news via email.

The ability to synchronise social media posts with website and vice versa.

Member of the Public - Understands website compliant however, would like to see newsletter or news section on the website. I.e., a brief of decisions made at council meetings the previous evening.

Cllr J Cooper - Public can come to the meetings, can ask for draft of minutes, or look at final minutes on the website. Happy for public to submit news items for the website too.

Town Clerk - we are in the process of adding a newsletter to the website and working closely with other councils. People's newsletter- not just what council say public too. Introduced new website to be compliant. We would welcome news from public to add to a newsletter too.

Member of Public - It is difficult to find information regarding events and council meetings, even this meeting was not well advertised and could not find agenda on the website. BTC should advertise meetings on Facebook.

Cllr J Cooper - we are compliant regarding displaying agendas as we always put them on the Website and on the public notice board outside Shire Hall. There is no requirement to display the Annual Town Meeting on the website.

Senior Admin Assistant – The Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting is displayed on the website and there is an Annual Town meeting page on the website.

Town Clerk - Have reservations using Facebook as a means to engage public and to display agendas but take comments on board and this is something we are considering going forward.

Cllr J Cooper - Public engagement is something we want to improve. However, we like to ensure content is correct and that all the pieces are in place before plans are released to the public.

Member of Public - When are the schedule meetings? Spoke to reception staff and they didn't know when meetings were taking place?

Cllr J Cooper - There is an annual calendar of meetings on the website, agendas also go on the website.

Cllr Henderson - BTC reception staff are down to minimum at present. Kickstart employees have been on the reception desk and may not have been aware of the schedule of meetings. This is not an excuse and will take comments on board to improve service.

Cllr P Cooper - We recognise that communication can be improved, and we do strive to improve. Cllr P Cooper has handed out leaflets and mentioned events to several people, including this meeting. Can only advertise so much and there is some apathy from the public when it comes to engaging with the council.

Cllr J Cooper - It is part of BTC's plan to create a page on the website to engage with public, e.g., electronic newsletters and surveys.

Q3. Why did the Council remove the freedom of residents to use the Beacon without restrictions?

What will the cost be to the Council to get a ticket machine install and the addition cost to monitor the parking?

Cllr J Cooper – Bodmin Town Council has not removed the freedom for people to park at the Beacon, but the Council is aiming to stop the area being abused by individuals parking there for the day or longer thus restricting opportunity for others to enjoy the location.

Some of the parking at the Beacon leaves a great deal to be desired. Incidents where people have been injured on the beacon, part of what we do is to look after residents and so by restricting parking this helps manage the issue. There needs to be capacity to regulate parking especially if we have another busy summer. No plan to restrict access but parking needs to be managed correctly.

Member of Public - Even if don't stay on the Beacon car park long still have to buy a ticket. Parents often stay briefly to pick up children from scouts and guides. Now they must buy a ticket even for this. This is restricting freedom of the public.

Cllr J Cooper - There have been many incidences of unauthorised vehicles and fires at the beacon car park and this needs to be managed.

Q4. Why is it taking so long to refurbish/replace the Fair Park Toilets?

Cllr J Cooper - It was realised following a scoping exercise that the proposed design for refurbishing the existing building was neither efficient, viable or effective in terms of long -term maintenance, also for meeting local needs and reducing the effects of anti-social behaviour. The Council is now considering plans for a complete replacement with a new purpose-built building at less a cost to refurbishment options.

From Estates Minutes ref EST/2021/012 where it was last discussed in detail: -

- Following advertising the project on Contract Finder only two tenders were received, and it was considered by Council that the costs were excessive.
- There were also questions raised about the suitability of the Specification and whether the design and materials were robust enough.
- More recently agreed to reconsider the options, potentially better option to replace the old building with a more modern toilet block.
- Currently in the process of preparing papers for the next Estates Committee to recontract a more appropriate solution. Initial conversations indicate that this would be within our planned budget.

The Fair Park Toilets suffer from Anti-social behaviour. Going to cost a lot of money to improve them to prevent future vandalism. The Harris fencing BTC use to fence off areas is currently unavailable and is necessary for temporary fencing.

Examples of anti-social behaviour, levered tiles off the wall. To prevent this with the refurbished toilets we need to ensure they will be more vandal proof. Lighting and colours for disability also need to be considered.

Cllr P Cooper- After discussions with other councils who have had to refurbish toilets multiple times to get them right, we don't want to spend money multiple times if don't get this right first time. There are some companies offering to design blocks that are vandal proof. There is a question of charging for toilets. Conflicting advice all the time as to best approach for refurbishment.

Q5. What is the annual net cost of the administration of the Council?

Cllr J Cooper - Please see Budget summary 2021/22 (See Appendix. 1)

This is a broad question. Supplied member of the public with examples and budget information to take home. The budget is broken down into sections.

Q6. In hindsight was the lease with the Jail for the carpark fit for purpose? Why is it costing so much to defend the Council position?

A conditional agreement to grant a lease was entered into between Bodmin Town Council and Mallino Developments Limited. The conditions of the agreement included the completion of specified works. The conditional agreement reflected the requirements to comply with public procurement regulations and to protect the public purse.

Unfortunately, Mallino Development Ltd has breached the agreement, which is why it has not been granted a lease. Therefore, the agreement has protected the interests of the Town Council.

Additional costs have been incurred because Mallino has asserted that it has not breached the agreement and, consequently, is entitled to a lease because it claims to have satisfied the conditions. The additional costs have arisen in defending that claim and enforcing the agreement, in the interest of protecting the public purse and public property. The Town Council has taken legal advice throughout and is satisfied that the steps it has taken are in the public interest.

Cllr J Cooper - No it wasn't fit for purpose; council inherited the car park with the issues.

Mallino have not fulfilled obligations under contract.

Works underground not complete or correct, council had no option but to defend position. Mallino have not paid for repairs etc. Council trying to get resolved whilst trying to balance and protect the public purse.

P Rogerson - Was briefed confidentially, is report in public domain now?

Cllr J Cooper - Not public until end of the week. We will be publishing all info when we can. Town Clerk will inform P Rogerson of the details that can be shared.

Member of Public - Easter coming and there will be a pressure on parking, Vehicles trying to access the jail car park. Something must be done to stop people going on there.

Cllr J Cooper - Actions to be taken, the area will have restricted access to public as public safety must come first. Have briefed County council members.

Member of Public - People do drive on there. Over next few days, will there be evidence of this being stopped?

Cllr Henderson - Easter holidays and summer holidays, issues of the jail car park are a concern and there is pressure on BTC to open it. The car park is dangerous and so must be closed. BTC are not being difficult, it cannot be opened.

Q7. How effective is the cooperation between the County Council and the Council when it comes to road infrastructure alterations in Bodmin?

Cllr J Cooper – The Bodmin Town Council Planning Committee continues to scrutinise infrastructure matters related to new development and in relation to highway disruption. At a meeting of the planning committee held last night several questions were raised by Councillors regarding new road works, the Town Clerk was instructed to write to Cornwall Council and establish the full impact on residents. Bodmin Town Council intends to progress an overall masterplan for the purpose of infrastructure improvement and work collaboratively with Cornwall Council to share proposals and concepts about how best to reduce the impact of new development on the community of Bodmin.

The town council are only a consultee regarding development. Planning office are stretched and there is a large volume of development. There is a resource issue and developers don't always want to talk to BTC regarding all aspects of development.

Cllr P Brown - No adequate provision from Cornwall Council to assess development. Cornwall Council seem to need BTC advice on planning as they have asked us before.

Member of Public - No one seems to be looking at the overall infrastructure of Bodmin.

Cllr J Cooper - BTC have town centre regeneration fund, to include consultation for Dennison Road. Trying to bring together a master plan so can provide infrastructure information in order to propose practical solutions for planning.

Cllr P Brown - BTC are not anti-development but have objected to planning applications from Bunny homes, off Old Callywith road, this was based on the road network being insufficient to support the increase in housing development.

Cllr J Cooper - Charrette engagement event to consult public regarding all aspects of the town, including development. As a community we can come up with ideas to inform a Master plan for development.

Member of Public - County council seem to ignore Bodmin regarding development concerns.

Q8. How far along the road has the Council come to be held up as a council that other parish council in Cornwall would want to emulate?

Cllr J Cooper - Bodmin Town Council is working towards becoming an accredited standard Council. The Council's Community Services strategies are leading the way in terms of meeting new proposed Government reviews and 21st century standards for community development and management structures, our policies in this respect are sought after and have been used by other bodies wishing to emulate what the Town Council is doing and achieving.

The way we work now, and effort officers put in ensures BTC is cost effective and efficient. Other towns and parishes are coming to us to engage and work with us. Other councils have also taken interest in the external accounting authority we're using and would like to emulate this approach.

Q9. What is the annual net cost of Narissa Hall?

Please see Narissa Hall Budget February 2022 and BTC budgets 2021-22.

Narissa hall wasn't used for many years. Figures are on the website. It is now occupied and the cost to run last year was £3,916.16. This was 5% less than predicted.

Cllr Henderson - A lot of outgoing costs for Narissa hall were due to the occurrence of near weekly vandalism. The hall is now in use, Discovery 42 are using it rent free and it's cost neutral to the council as Discovery 42 pay for gas, water, electricity.

Member of public - Discovery 42 is a real success and seems to work well and heard lots of positive feedback from the public.

Cllr J Cooper - BTC were the only council that offered to support Discovery 42, others rejected them.

Cllr P Brown - Tried to get building rented out for a long time but wasn't viable, this has been a challenge until now.

Cllr P Cooper - County councillors are also supporting Discovery 42 and now allowing schools to visit.

Member of Public - what's funding Discovery 42?

Cllr J Cooper - BTC have helped set them up as much as possible and use the building rent free.

P Rogerson - Discovery 42 may start to charge entry to help fund itself.

Q10. Explain why the precept has risen so much this coming year? Would it not have been better to have smaller increases over two years? Does it point to the fact that Councillors did not understand the finances of the Council?

Cllr J Cooper – In setting its Budget and Precept for the financial year 2021/22, Bodmin Town Council acknowledged the difficult financial and economic position faced by residents and taxpayers and took the difficult decision to cut several significant sums from its Budget by delaying non-essential expenditure. By this means we were able to reduce the Precept charged to householders by 17.52% compared with 2020/21.

With the improved economic situation, and recognising that such expenditure cannot be delayed further, these items have been re-instated in the 2022-23 Budget.

Although this year's Precept increase appears significant at first sight, it nevertheless represents merely a return to 2020/21 levels plus the impact of ongoing inflation in the two years since then. This increase has been limited to 3% per annum (below actual inflation for the period) and significantly below the anticipated inflation level of 4.5% - 5.5% forecast for 2022-23.

The 2022-23 Budget also allows additional sums for investment in income producing initiatives aimed at limiting future increases by maximising income from the council's current range of services and resources.

The budget setting process at Bodmin Town Council this year is possibly one of the toughest we have had to undertake as a Council. The financial strains that normally apply to Bodmin Town Council have without doubt been amplified by events beyond our control across 2020 and into 2021.

We must recognise the financial decisions set out in this year's budget and any rise in precept resulting, have been fundamentally influenced by world events that has to a large degree created a perfect budgeting storm for Bodmin Town Council, with no options other than to face the realities head on.

Unlike central government, local authorities cannot borrow to finance day-to-day spending, and so they must either run balanced budgets or draw down reserves – money built up by underspending in earlier years – to ensure that their annual spending does not exceed their annual revenue. But reserves can only be used once. Once reserves are spent, they cannot be spent again on delivering projects for the community's benefit. It must also be considered that during the COVID pandemic, Bodmin Town Council has received no extra funding from either Cornwall Council or Central Government.

Local government in England has very limited revenue-raising powers compared to other wealthy countries. In 2014, every other G7 nation collected more taxes at either a local or regional level, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Twelve percent of the UK's taxes were collected, or intended to be collected, locally in 2014, compared to 17% collected locally or federally in Italy, 30% in Germany, and almost 50% in Canada.

By the end of 2021, local authorities in England will have faced a reduction to core funding from the Government of nearly £16 billion over the preceding decade. That means that Town councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 the

Government had provided to spend on local services in the last eight years. Next year, 168 councils will receive no revenue support grant at all.

During 2020 and on into 2021/ 22 the world was thrust into the most devastating of times, coping with the fallout from the COVID19 pandemic. This by nature of the restrictions placed on all of us by central government, ensured Bodmin Town Council's operational cost were going to rise substantially. This unforeseen and impossible to plan for chain of events, in conjunction with the reduction in the government funding grant, an increased level of employer's national insurance contributions, combined with dramatically increased public realm cleaning and sanitising regimes for public toilets, staff working from home requirements have had devastating financial effect. COVID19 has also dramatically affected Bodmin Town Council revenues, (no normal facility hire activity) coupled with the phenomenally fast rate of increase in fuel and utilities costs have compounded a devastating impact on the Town Councils finances.

Previously Bodmin Town Council budgets and AGAR submissions have been compiled in house, however this year Bodmin Town Council has been assisted with budget peroration by external specialist Accounting Solutions.

This approach has identified information about historic financial oversight, generated by changing local government accounting guidance that has not been fully embraced during historic budget preparation. The external accounting specialists assure us it's not uncommon to see changes in local council account reporting protocols, create inaccuracies in reporting data. Consistent with the oversights uncovered at other town councils and like the actions taken by those other town and parish councils, we will need to issue a corrected AGAR for 2020-21 and demonstrate in this year's budget we have an agreed plan to rectify any anomalies, including short falls in the revenue budget.

It remains a fact that despite the best efforts of Bodmin Town Council members and officers over the last five years, Bodmin is unable to avoid the dramatic increased demand on finances, for all the reasons listed above.

This Town Council faces negative financial impact of world events, such as COVID19 combined with an unprecedented rise in utility cost, never experienced by any previous Council, however we are required to balance the budget, leaving no option other than an increase in the Bodmin Town Council precept in 2022.

To provide our community with some insulation from the full impact of an immediate large rise in precept of a 24%, as recommended by the external local government accounting specialists,

Bodmin Town Council has agreed the need to: -

- a) control expenditure
- b) reduce cost
- c) create a robust future financial plan,

It is with a heavy heart Council agreed the 15.88% precept rise or 82 pence per week for a B and D property, however we had to balance the budget.

It's worth sanity checking this rise against all the constituents of the bill residents receive through the post, as Cornwall Council collect all the local bodies funding in one council tax bill. The total bill is made up of a small element of Bodmin Town Council precept, Cornwall Councils, council tax and the Devon & Cornwall

Police precept. All three come together to create the bill we all receive. Bodmin Town Council's precepts is around 10% of the overall council tax amount levied by Cornwall Council. Out of the precept, that is around 10% of Cornwall Council's bill, Bodmin Town Council provides, Town parks & playing fields, public toilets, Shire Hall, Shire House, Shire House Suite, Mount Folly, contributions to Christmas lights, Skate Park, Remembrance parade, Cemetery space, etc. Bodmin Town Council accounts are public documents and are available to view on the BTC website, so with all this information at hand I'm sure the residents of Bodmin will understand why 2022 will see an 82 pence per week rise in precept.

Cllr P Cooper - When we set last year's budget, we took into account deprived areas. Would like to have had a zero increase in precept. May have been easier for public to accept but we made decision with best intentions.

Member of Public - Is there no money to claim back from Cornwall Council due to losses incurred during pandemic?

Cllr J Cooper - No money to claim back from Cornwall Council however we did have welcome back funding. Cleaning costs went up 75%. Council subject to same stresses and strains as public in terms of utility costs. Bodmin precept used to be highest in Cornwall but now it is way down list and BTC are still maintaining services.

Member of Public - still don't understand why so low one year and so high now. BTC need to plan further ahead.

Cllr J Cooper - no way could have predicted pandemic and increase in cleaning costs. If not for pandemic precept would have stayed low. All public organisations suffering the same. We could make cutbacks, i.e., not invest in new cemetery, but loved ones of residents would have to be buried elsewhere and not close to residents.

4 Any other urgent/relevant items which the Chairman considers appropriate

Member of Public - Regarding the beacon, is it co-managed by Town Council and County Council?

Cllr J Cooper - BTC cut the grass, Cornwall Council look after trees and natural history aspects, approx. 60-40 split in responsibility.

Member of Public - Can the management of the Beacon be improved and is there a management plan? There are plans to plant up fields on south side. Perhaps there should be a volunteer's group- Friends of Beacon woods perhaps? Needs to link in with the proposed cemetery.

Cllr J Cooper - Need to work with P Rogerson on this. May be loss of trees due to disease. New cemetery will be fantastic and do need to link this in with the Beacon. Need to secure work on cemetery. There is a devolution plan, perhaps Cornwall council could devolve more responsibly to BTC to manage the Beacon as well as manage other wooded areas around the town. Resources from BTC are smaller, there is a limit as to what is possible from us due to precept. Officers are developing green strategy which will incorporate these spaces. There will be opportunities for volunteers to become involved.

Member of Public - Proposed cemetery location prime example of news that could go on website as most people don't know the exact location.

Cllr J Cooper - Would prefer to wait to secure site and planning permission before announcing so as not to raise expectations.

Member of Public – Do not need that level of detail, public just need to know where the proposed cemetery is intended to be.

Cllr J Cooper - New cemetery site has been a known objective for 5 years. Don't want to provide details of what will look like if these do not eventually meet the outcome.

Member of Public – The community see BTC as a secretive council, therefore a news page would be good way to make BTC operations more transparent.

Member of Public - Charrette, would a member of the public know what it is as it is not a familiar term? If BTC want to engage people need to get rid of buzz words and use plain English.

P Rogerson - People behind the charrette advised the use of the word charrette instead of consultation, as thought would encourage more engagement if people intrigued by the name.

Cllr J Cooper - Cornwall Council have granted money for town revitalisation and to regenerate Dennison Road etc. Public engagement required to inform revitalisation decisions so that the public have a say in how the money is spent and what they'd like to see happen to the town.

Member of Public - But the town revitalisation has nothing to do with Dennison Road?

Cllr J Cooper - Was going to be part of town centre revitalisation. Decided to use opportunity to encompass more areas including Dennison Road.

P Rogerson - Also worded as a charrette and not consultation as there is nothing on the table from the council and therefore this event is very much for the public to put ideas forward. Dennison road needs to be revitalised. The charrette is 2 days where the public can engage with us. The town planners will work on information received from the public. Planners and architects will try to come up with something that the community would like and benefit from.

Cllr J Cooper - JTP have a track record they worked on the cattle market in Liskeard where improvements there have worked to benefit of the community.

Cllr P Cooper - Plan was to have public engagement event to obtain ideas for all areas of Bodmin.

P Rogerson - Work on Dennison Road is an integral part of the town revitalisation due to the nature of how it links to the Town Centre.

Cllr J Cooper - Dennison Road and town centre have retained separate funding from Cornwall Council. This was to ensure that BTC received maximum funding available for both projects. The residents of Bodmin will create the project but BTC have the funding from Cornwall Council to pay for the work decided upon.

Member of Public - BTC should use community college for the creation of posters for empty shops, some nice designs to promote the charrette more.

Cllr J Cooper - We have been working with the college to discuss these projects.

A Bright - Poster likely won't happen in time for this charrette but there will be future public engagement events for which we could use the college to create promotional material.

Member of Public - Maybe need to have presence in supermarkets and be more visible that way.

Cllr J Cooper - We have been present to engage with public and would have done more if hadn't been for challenges like the pandemic.

Member of Public - Will there be more opportunities to challenge ideas and feedback from the charrette? Particularly for those who miss this charrette.

Cllr J Cooper - Friday and Saturday are just the launch to gain momentum, there will be opportunities for further feedback and refinement of ideas by the public. Part of the process is to take feedback and review, go again and review to refine ideas. It is a robust process. BTC are looking forward to the event and public responses. Advise people keep an open mind and come along when they can. Can also e-mail ideas in.

P Rogerson - JTP are flexible and will take requests to meet people from the community. They will speak with anyone who wants an input into the town.

J Cooper - 17th March Charles Campion coming to brief the council again on the charrette.

Thanked the audience for questions and feedback, BTC never profess to be perfect and always encourage the public to engage with us. BTC encourage us all to be positive about Bodmin and to work together.

Meeting Closed- 19.44pm

Annual Town Meeting 10th March 2022 – Action table

Action	Details	Responsible officer/ department
Creation of a news page or Newsletter for the BTC website.	To display recent news from the council, i.e., decisions made at recent council meetings, news the public would like to share.	Community Services
Ensure all staff are aware of the schedule of meetings and the location of this on the website.	To ensure all BTC staff and respond to questions regarding when meetings are taking place.	All departments
Town Clerk to inform County Cllr P Rogerson regarding public details of Hillside car park.	Details that Cllr P Rogerson is now able to share to the public.	Town Clerk
Share the location of the proposed new Cemetery	On the website, as part of the newsletter to make public aware of the proposed site of the new cemetery.	Community Services