

Meeting Minutes

The Passmore Edwards Building, The Cross, Cross Street, Camborne TR14 8HA Tel: 01209 612406 enquiries@camborne-tc.gov.uk

MINUTES:

of the meeting of The Annual Town Assembly of Camborne Town Council held in the Council Chamber, The Passmore Edwards Building, The Cross, Cross Street, Camborne, TR14 8HA on Thursday 2nd May 2024 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Z Fox	Chair
Councillor J Ball	Vice Chair
Councillor D Atherfold	
Councillor J Cosgrove	
Councillor C Godolphin	
Councillor C Lawrence	
Councillor L McDonald	
Councillor N Miles	
Councillor P Mills	
Councillor J Morgan	
Councillor D Ragan	
Councillor R Weatherburn	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Samantha Hughes, Town Clerk; Rose Hitchens Todd, Head of Community and Culture; Alicia Jouvenaar, Events and Widening Participation Manager; Steve Cantrill, Communications and Engagement Manager; Sally Williams, Committee Support Officer; and eleven members of the public.

ATA.312 WELCOME AND SAFETY PROCEDURES

The Mayor welcomed Councillors and members of the public and thanked them for attending. The safety procedures were also explained.

ATA.313 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

No apologies were received from Councillor N Heather.

ATA.313.2 RESOLVED: that apologies from Councillors R Congdon, V Dalley, R Tal-E-Bot, S Weedon and M Williams for non-attendance of the Annual Town Assembly on 2nd May 2024 were received

Proposed by Councillor Z Fox

Seconded by Councillor J Ball

On a vote being taken the matter was approved unanimously by all those entitled to vote.

ATA.314

TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REVIEW OF THE LAST 12 MONTHS BY THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed everyone in Cornish and English and then explained that her annual report would be long out of necessity and in recognition of how much had been achieved. She explained that over the last three years in which she had served as Mayor major progress had been made. The Mayor also wished to note that she was immensely proud of Camborne Town Council and their achievements since the last election. She then summed up some of those achievements:

New Assets and Responsibilities:

- The Old Basset School and the White House – a flagship 'Town Deal' initiative which will expand Library provision, provide flexible community space and house some of our most important heritage.
- Land at Kerrier Way – bringing an attractive green space for all to enjoy which will reflect the local heritage and provide much needed 'Green lungs' in place of the wasteland that currently stands at the gateway to the town.
- Parc Gerry – another project within Camborne Town Council's 'Town Deal' initiatives, bringing sports, accessibility and nature recovery into the town.
- These have all been as a result of Camborne Town Council stepping up to take on the workload and the responsibility to bring these grants to fruition. The Mayor wished to extend special thanks to the Amenities and Projects Officer and Deputy Proper Officer for his hard work, alongside Councillors and staff, all of whom have worked together to make these projects happen.
- The Historic 'Compressor House' building at Dolcoath had also been saved for the Parish. This was an iconic and irreplaceable piece of local cultural heritage, sited at the gateway to the 'Great Flat Lode' within our World Heritage Site area.

In addition to those 'headline' projects Camborne Town Council had continued to maintain, deliver and improve many services:

- Maintaining Green spaces parkland and playgrounds, street furniture, the fountain and town clock. Introducing 'Green Fest' which had been a new landmark event for the town. Continuing to work with partners to improve the winter Lantern Parade, supporting Fairtrade promotions, Remembrance Day, The Christmas Lights and Trevithick Day activities. She extended thanks to the Events and Widening Participation Manager for her hard work in ensuring that such events were run safely and enjoyably.

She also wished to mention the street weeding in the town, and she hoped that local people were witnessing improvements. She also explained that the Council had begun a Carbon Audit, in an effort to examine everything that was done with respect for the planet and for cost effectiveness. Work was also being undertaken with 'Forest for Cornwall' to plant more trees in line with the responsibility to tackle the climate and ecological crisis.

The Mayor also spoke about the Town Council's Grant Scheme which supports local organisations with small grants and was an effective way to deliver benefits for the local communities.

Councillors and staff have worked together to keep costs down whilst delivering the priorities that were revealed through the first 'Town Survey'. Safer Streets funding had been bid for, Street Marshal patrols had been delivered and a dedicated officer to tackle anti-social behaviour had been introduced.

The Youth Council was serving as an example to other Councils and was going from strength to strength. They identify priorities and address these through a programme of work and fundraising, whilst representing the Council at events and consultations. They were a credit to the Council and the Parish.

Finally the Mayor thanked:

- Councillors who give their time freely for the benefit of the Parish.
- Members of staff
- The Town Clerk
- The Mayor's Cadet – Tiffany Davis, for fulfilling the role with excellence.

The Mayor ended her speech by stating that it had been an honour and a privilege to work with the Council and to represent the Town throughout Cornwall. She described Camborne as the best Town and Parish in Cornwall and she felt that it had a very bright future.

The Deputy Mayor spoke about the challenges of the year but felt that, with the hard work of the staff, the best interests of the community had continued to be at the forefront of everything that was done. He explained that new members of staff, Lara in admin, Steve, taking on full time responsibility for social media and marketing, and Charlotte in the library had all helped to make this happen.

The library provision had grown immensely with the introduction of try-out Tuesdays and Monthly Makers, and school visits had increased. The Library continued to host the Community Larder weekly, which helped many local residents and contributed to reducing food wastage.

The Amenities team were transitioning to electric tools to reduce vibration white finger and also to reduce the carbon footprint. The tools had been trialled and the team had been very impressed with the technological advance. An electric vehicle had also been leased to assist with making steps for a cleaner healthier planet.

The Recreation Ground had once again been awarded Green Flag status and Forest for Cornwall had been hosted with the planting of another seven trees for the park.

October had again seen the 'tree giveaway' allowing residents to claim up to three trees. In total, over one thousand trees had been given away which would have a huge impact, helping create wildlife corridors across the parish.

Once again the Community and Commerce Awards would be held on 23rd May. The event had grown, with over four hundred nominations being received for Camborne residents and business owners to recognise the work that they do for Camborne. This event would be hosted at Camborne Rugby Football Club.

The Deputy Mayor ended by thanking the staff for their hard work in assisting Councillors to put the community first.

ATA.315

TO RECEIVE VERBAL PRESENTATIONS FROM THE CORNWALL COUNCILLORS FOR THE PARISH

Cornwall Councillor Peter Perry provided a detailed summary of the work he had completed, and the issues dealt with during the past twelve months:

Councillor Perry had represented the residents in Chapel Road and Chapel Close at Cornwall Council Planning due to problems with land heights in the new development in Tuckingmill. He had also visited residents to view further issues and to negotiate on their behalf with the Site Agent. In addition to these negotiations he had been successful in obtaining a defibrillator donated by the site contractor.

Councillor Perry had also acted on behalf of residents who might have been adversely impacted by a new Planning Application for homes off Boiler Works Road. He was hoping that this would result in a positive outcome shortly.

He regularly received calls and emails regarding pot-holes and parking which had resulted in him liaising with the Cornwall Council Highways Manager to attempt to find solutions. In addition he had secured a safer school crossing for pupils of Rosemellin School.

Other issues raised during the year were:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Shoplifting
- Homelessness

Both he and Cornwall Councillor John Morgan have been pressing for a stronger police presence in Camborne.

Incidents of graffiti had been reported to Biffa to be cleaned and he mentioned a member of the parish who had been voluntarily cleaning it as well. He expressed his thanks to this person on behalf of the people of this parish.

Quarterly he has contacted the Trustees of the Pengegon Institute regarding the delays of the restoration following the fire in 2021. He would be calling for a meeting with the Trustees and the Charity Commission to pursue this as he felt that the residents of Pengegon needed the benefit of that community space.

He ended his report by stating that he had used his Community Chest funding for the benefit of Camborne causes including Trevithick Day.

Cornwall Councillor and Camborne Town Councillor John Morgan then gave his report of the year, which he stated had been very busy and rewarding.

He reported achievements such as:

- Gaining funding to erect a bus shelter outside St Martin and St Meriadoc Church. This was a well-used bus stop that had previously had no weather protection.

- Successfully gaining a set of raised highway access points and waiting restrictions so that students had safe access to Camborne Science and International Academy.
- Disabled bays and dropped kerbs to assist wheel chair access in various parts of his constituency.
- A further survey, by Cormac, of another estate to look at providing more dropped kerbs and studded pavements for safer access soon.
- Funding for Camborne Rugby Football Club to allow for new changing rooms and other improvements to enhance the facilities.

He then went on to speak about Crime and Antisocial Behaviour. He stated that the rise in incidents in the last year had been very disappointing, mainly consisting of shoplifting, the use of drugs and behavioural issues. He thanked police officers and the ASBO Officer for their hard work in reducing these problems and thanked Camborne Town Council for employing security personnel to help in the town. He also spoke about being successful in gaining funding to pay for a permanent ASBO Officer in Camborne and also to have a team from social services to help to get to the root causes and to help those who were homeless. These should be in place by September 2024.

Speaking about his Community Chest money he confirmed that he had assisted many children in local sports clubs and also some under fives in schools, as he felt that in a deprived area it was children that missed out on opportunities. This was linked to his concerns about the high level of domestic violence that exists in the local area.

Councillor Morgan ended his report by congratulating the many successes of Camborne Rugby Football Club, the successes achieved within Camborne Science and International Academy linked to show jumping and eventing, and two local dart players who have been selected to play at a tournament in London. He felt that he was proud of his support for the sports clubs in his division and that there was a lot to be proud of in Camborne.

Councillor S Weedon entered the meeting at 18:24.

Cornwall Councillor and Camborne Town Councillor S Weedon reported that she had been a Town Councillor for the last three years. This had been an enjoyable journey but also an eye opener as her division faced a lot of challenges. Nonetheless the local community spirit was strong. She had been involved with many Community Interest Companies and local sports clubs in order to gain funding for them. This had been important as challenges had been faced in reviving many clubs following Covid. She stated that

the local area needed more economic growth and increased green initiatives, but she felt that the planning was in place for those to happen. She ended by saying that she felt very proud to represent her division.

ATA.316

TO RECEIVE A VERBAL PRESENTATION FROM WILL KEATING (VIA VIDEO FORMAT)

Will Keating presented a video regarding the Camborne School's Project. It showed Camborne Primary School children enjoying and engaging with him performing at the Hall for Cornwall. Included was the performance by Harry Glasson and the children all singing 'This is my Cornwall'.

The Mayor had also been present on the day and she reiterated that it had been a successful and thoroughly enjoyable event.

A member of the public entered the meeting at 18:35.

ATA.317

TO RECEIVE A VERBAL PRESENTATION FROM MHA COMMUNITIES

Two representatives from MHA Communities gave a power point presentation to illustrate to the Town Council how the grant funding that they had received had made a difference to their work.

They explained that they had merged with MHA Communities Cornwall following Covid in order to reintroduce as much support and as many activities as possible. Despite merging with MHA Communities they remained self-funding for the services that they offer at All Saints. Activities included:

- A weekly activity group
- A weekly carpet bowls group
- A monthly outing trip
- Birthday and Christmas cards
- Quarterly newsletters
- Access to online activities and telephone support
- Support with accessing other services (as required)

Music was used to enhance many of the activities on offer and Camborne Town Council's grant had allowed them to book regular

musical performers as well. This was why the grant donation from Camborne Town Council had been so important.

The representatives from MHA gave some case study examples to demonstrate how beneficial their services were and this was underpinned by some examples of feedback from members and their relatives.

Finally they reiterated their thanks for the support from the Town Council which had increased their ability to continue to reduce loneliness and isolation by giving people a chance to meet new friends, and have something to look forwards to.

ATA.318

TO RECEIVE A VERBAL PRESENTATION FROM CAMBORNE LIBRARY TEAM

The Head of Community and Culture gave a presentation that reported on the successes of the Library in the last year. She showed pictures of a range of the events and activities that the library participates in, such as:

- Knit and natter – now so popular and so busy that for the first time ever it has split into morning and afternoon groups!
- Visiting residents of Veor House with Rhyme Time participants as well as regular Rhyme Time sessions each week.
- Lego Club on Tuesday afternoons.
- Fund raising events for charities.
- The Summer Reading Challenge – in which Camborne Library had 240 'finishers' last year!

She explained the staffing structure of the Library and added that additional staff plus changes to the management structure had assisted in the huge expansion of library provision during the year. Added to this, there were ex teachers amongst the team, plus a range of different talents that had created an exciting and dynamic pool from which new projects could be drawn. This was all supported by an array of volunteers, including within the library itself, support for events and workshops and for the Home Library Service.

Cornwall Council retain ultimate responsibility for providing the library service in Cornwall and provide reports that substantiate how Camborne Library are growing and developing. Camborne Library was in the top five for borrower growth and this continues

to increase. It had a very active youth borrower community and adult borrowing had also improved.

The Head of Community and Culture showed a timetable of activities on an average library week which included; Poetry, Rhymetime, Knit and Natter, Lego Club, Theatre Club, 'Just a Cuppa', and the Community Larder. This demonstrated just how much the Library achieved in a week in addition to being free for school visits on Monday and Tuesday, and Wednesday afternoons. As a consequence of this, to date the library had hosted 470 children from seven schools in this academic year.

The Library had also managed to accommodate more students who wished to use the library for private study. They had run a sports day in Camborne Recreation Ground, linked to the Summer Reading Challenge and had worked with the Mobile Library to reach more borrowers. Author talks were becoming increasingly regular and popular events, and the library had also had a presence at:

- Green Week
- Christmas in Camborne
- Camborne Show
- Draw 24
- Fairtrade Fortnight
- Green Fest
- Trevithick Day
- Coastline Housing Events

In addition to all of this the Library functioned as a 'Warm Space', provided printing and IT access, sells Seagull Proof Bin Bags, can help with Bus Pass Applications, Housing applications and cost of living advice.

The Head of Community and Culture ended the presentation by concluding that if there were any negatives to the Library provision it would be lack of space and oversubscription due to its popularity. However, even this would be resolved by the advent of the new Basset Community Hub building so she felt that overall the Library offering was a huge success.

A member of the public voiced their concerns over the level of pollution in Trelowarren Street due to the high number of cars that drive through the town. She asked if Camborne Town Council could make representation to Cornwall Council regarding this matter.

This was answered by Councillor Cosgrove as he was the Chairman of the Town Deal board. He explained that the town centre was a part of the Town Deal projects and as such, important plans were being put in place, which have been fed by the results of local consultations. Longer parking bays could be implemented towards the eastern end of the street and throughout there could be increased pedestrian crossings with more trees and enhanced landscaping.

He also drew people's attention to the campaign that he had led to install signage at the railway crossings in the town which would urge drivers to turn off their engines whilst waiting at the barriers.

There were additional comments regarding the town centre, for instance, whether it would be possible to pedestrianise it wholly. However, this was also countered by a view that some people really need to access the town via car.

Councillor Cosgrove urged people to have their say by engaging with the latest consultation which was currently taking place and he directed them to the questionnaires that were available.

ATA.320

TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH STATUTORY NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

There were no resolutions for consideration.

ATA.321

TO CLOSE THE ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

The assembled Councillors, Staff Members and Members of the Public saw a final video of clips of the year to close the meeting.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 19.09 pm and invited those present to join her and other Councillors to partake of refreshments.

SIGNED BY THE CHAIR.....

DATE