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Launceston Town Council
The Town Hall
Launceston
Cornwall PL15 7AR

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
held on TUESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2023 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall

PRESENT Cllrs Bailey (Mayor), Gilbert (Deputy Mayor), Bullen, Conway, Gordon, Green, Harris, Heaton, Hogan, Lankston, Nancarrow, Penhale, Soanes Tremain and Young
In attendance: Christopher Drake (Town Clerk)
1 x public
1 x press

Council received a presentation from Dr Michael Ireland, OkeRail and Mr Adrian Gannon, Connect Bude on the potential for a Connect Launceston railway project

2312/28 Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O'Brien and Cornwall Cllr Paynter

2312/29 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest

2312/30 Public Representation Session
There were no public questions

2312/31 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the last meeting, previously circulated
It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes previously circulated;
(i) Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council held on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 7.00pm

2312/32 To receive and adopt the minutes of committees and sub-committees, previously circulated
It was **resolved** to receive and adopt the minutes of the following committees and sub committees:
(i) Planning and Economic Development held on Thursday 23 November 2023 at 7.00pm
(ii) Estates and Properties held on Monday 4 December 2023 at 10.00am
(iii) Finance and General Purposes held on Wednesday 6 December 2023 at 7.00pm

2312/33 Reports from Cornwall Councillors
Cornwall Councillor Conway spoke regarding the proposed Connect Launceston project and advised that much of the work will require working in partnership with Devon County Council and Highways. Cllr Conway stated that the proposed changes to school transport routes had been postponed and the current routes and services retained. He also advised that funding had been received from Central Government, but more funding was required to be able to provide continued services within Cornwall

Cllr Heaton said that she had contacted Cornwall Council Cabinet Members, but to date had not received a response and this was not the time that this had happened.

Cllr Soanes asked if there was any further funding expected from Government. Cllr Conway stated that Cornwall Council continued to explore all means possible for funding

Cllr Tremain noted that funding was being used for the new metro service at a cost of £56 million, but that the north and east of Cornwall were not receiving funding and this was needed to improve the bus services in rural areas. Cllr Conway said that he approved of the metro decision as it will benefit Cornwall but had raised concerns about overspending on the proposals as Cornwall Council did not have any additional funds for the project other than those allocated and also the scheme must not be subsidised beyond the three years that have been planned. The bus services affected by the metro service will be altered accordingly and this will not have a detrimental affect on other areas in Cornwall

Cllr Nancarrow asked if the use of taxi services for school children will continue. Cllr Conway advised that this matter was being looked into to ensure the scheme is better operated but stated that Cornwall Council has a legal duty to offer transport for those school pupils that require it

Cllr Soanes asked if there were details of what the longest school journey is for a pupil. Cllr Conway asked Cllr Soanes to email the question to him so that he is able to respond with the information once he received it.

Cllr Gilbert asked if the school transport review will be undertaken again in the future. Cllr Conway stated that there was no timetable in regards to this matter being considered again

Cllr Young stated that the provision of transport for SEN pupils was not new but that the issues arose due to the lack of better SEN provision being available

2312/34

Reports and Questions from Town Councillors

Cllr Bailey provided an update regarding the PPG AGM and details of the elected officers. She also advised that another paramedic had been employed at the Medical Centre and that there is still a full time vacancy for a doctor. The pharmacy has a new manager in post and the dispensing of prescriptions was now only two days behind, which is a considerable improvement. The links with local pharmacies are good and there are plans for a facility for minor illness appointments to be held at pharmacies which will support the doctors and free up further appointments. The work on the electronic prescription service with the practice IT system was still ongoing. It was also noted that members from a younger age demographic would be welcome to attend the PPG and works on this were ongoing.

Cllr Heaton gave an update from the Integrated Care Board and how they are winter planning and seeking additional appointments. The new Launceston Hub will provide a number of services and specialist clinics and a support centre is also available at the Orchard Centre. Cllr Heaton also advised that Launceston Camera Club had been awarded first place in the Camera Club category of the UK-wide Amateur Photographer of the Year competition. Cllr Heaton also advised that she had attended the Cornwall Council climate change course

2312/35

Report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Mayor provided an update on the Mayoral and Deputy Mayor's activities

2312/36

Report from the Town Clerk

Members considered Report 15/23 concerning the above (previously circulated)
It was **resolved** that;

- i) the December RAG report be noted
- ii) the update regarding the new skatepark project be noted
- iii) the update regarding the work and events provided by the library be noted and thanks to the library team be minuted
- iv) the agreed dates for Extraordinary meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Full Council be noted
- v) the date for the Mayor's Civic Service be noted
- vi) the tender document for the library hub design be agreed

2312/37 Updated Policies and Quality Gold Statements

Members considered Report 16/23 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** that;

- i) the publication scheme, privacy, disciplinary and training policies be agreed
- ii) the statements as required for the Local Council Award Scheme accreditation be agreed

2312/38 Progress and Information

Members considered Report 17/23 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** that;

- i) the details of the Cornwall Council Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy be noted and that the Mayor had concerns that due to the potential weight of electric vehicles, thought should be given regarding their continued use especially within multi storey car parks
- ii) the details of the Cornwall Council 2024 Off-Street Parking Order be noted
- iii) the statement in the Local Government Finance Policy Statement for 2024/25 regarding Council Tax referendums be noted

2312/39 Correspondence and Matters to Note

It was **resolved** to;

- i) note the venue usage
- ii) agree that Cllrs Gilbert, Lankston, Soanes and Penhale attend the Launceston Rugby Community Day on Saturday 6 January 2024
- iii) note the Council operational times and emergency contact details for Christmas and the New Year and thank the stewards team for their work over the festive period

2312/40 Urgent Items

- 1) Cllr Tremain advised that the block paving in Westgate Street was in need of repair again further to a pedestrian tripping and falling at the site
- 2) Cllr Harris asked if the wild vegetation adjacent to Maunders could be investigated to ensure it did not pose a danger
- 3) Details of the proposed Mayor's Civic Award were agreed

Date of the next meeting of the Council

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 January 2024

The meeting ended at 8.28pm

Signed Date