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Launceston Town Council
The Town Hall
Launceston
Cornwall PL15 7AR

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
held on TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 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)
2 x public
1 x press
- *Prayers were read by Reverend Clancy***
- 2311/20 Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O'Brien and Cornwall Cllr Paynter
- 2311/21 Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest
- 2311/22 Public Representation Session**
There were no public questions
- 2311/23 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 17 October 2023 at 7.00pm
- 2311/24 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) Staffing Committee held on Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 11.00am
(ii) Planning and Economic Development held on Thursday 2 November 2023 at 7.00pm
(iii) Library, Arts, Business and Information held on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7.00pm
- 2311/25 Reports from Cornwall Councillors**
Cornwall Councillor Conway stated that the increase in car parking charges had seen a fall of usage in Launceston and he was working on ways in which to alter this. Cllr Conway spoke about the Mid Cornwall Metro and the plan to improve the rail network but advised that budgets were very tight. Cllr Conway concluded by stating that there was an overspend at Cornwall Council but this was mainly due to increases in salary costs and interest rates

Cllr Tremain spoke about comments regarding EU Funding replacement monies and asked if this will affect the town. **Cllr Conway** stated that approved projects are being financed

from budgets where the funding is already in receipt and work was ongoing looking at replacement funding for the Shared Prosperity Fund from March 2025

Cllr Soanes asked if Cornwall Council were attempting to sell off any assets including Newquay airport. **Cllr Conway** said that Cornwall Council were looking for partners in regards to Newquay airport, that the Gateway Centre tenants were negotiating with Cornwall Council and that there was no decision on what will happen to the current library site at Bounsalls Lane or regarding the Exeter Street site

Cllr Heaton stated that car park charges were too high for some residents but that bus services in the outlying villages were not at a suitable level. **Cllr Conway** advised that he was not aware of any changes to bus services

2311/26 Reports and Questions from Town Councillors

Cllr Heaton provided an update from the PPG and how it was recruiting new members. Launceston medical centre is trialling a new triage system, a new system for patients with hearing difficulties and working on a system for digital prescriptions. The social prescriber is now working full time and working with the library and other organisations and thanks to support from Cllr Conway, the new medical hub in Exeter Street has been assigned disabled parking bays

Cllr Gordon gave an update on a meeting with OkeRail where he advised of Launceston's interest in working to get a rail link for the town. An engineer feasibility study is required and Cllr Conway has agreed to cover the £400 cost from his local councillor grant fund. OkeRail have been invited to give a presentation at the December meeting of Council

Cllr Harris advised that the Street Pastors organisation had recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary

2311/27 Report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor

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

2311/28 Report from the Town Clerk

Members considered Report 12/23 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** that;

- i) the update regarding the new skatepark project be noted
- ii) it be noted that the agreement has been signed for the lease of units for the storing and sorting of the museum collection
- iii) the details of the Christmas Light Switch On event be noted
- iv) the update regarding the library hub be noted and the Clerks thanks to colleagues for their work on the project to date be minuted
- v) the details of ongoing legal agreements to which the Council is committed be noted
- vi) the update regarding the work and events provided by the library be noted

2311/29 Support Between Neighbouring Councils in Emergencies

It was **resolved unanimously** that the Council endorse the actions reported to it by Cllr O'Brien at the October meeting of Full Council to create a system of mutual support between neighbouring Councils in emergencies and support further efforts to achieve that objective

2311/30 Library Hub

Members considered Report 13/23 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** that;

- i) a two stage tender process for design and then build be agreed
- ii) an Extraordinary Meeting of Council be called if required to consider and agree the tender documents
- iii) the Council use an open procedure for both tenders

2311/31

Local Council Pension Scheme Employers Pension Discretion Policy

It was **resolved** to approve the Local Council Pension Scheme Employers Pension Discretion Policy

2311/32

Support for Climate and Ecology Bill

Members considered Report 13/23 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** that;

- i) the Town Council support the Climate and Ecology Bill
- ii) inform local residents and the local press
- iii) write to Scott Mann MP to advise of the resolution
- iv) advise Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, of the Council's support

2311/33

Free Car Parking

It was **resolved unanimously** that free use of the Town Council multi storey car park be agreed for all Saturdays in December

2311/34

Correspondence and Matters to Note

It was **resolved** to note the venue usage

2311/35

Urgent Items

- 1) It was agreed that Cllr Lankston fill the vacant positions on the Library, Arts, Business and Information committee and the Planning and Economic Development committee. Cllr Lankston also agreed to be the Council's Outside Body Representative for the Chamber of Commerce
- 2) The Mayor asked for volunteers to assist with the Christmas Light Switch on event on Friday 1 December

Date of the next meeting of the Council

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 December 2023

The meeting ended at 7.57pm

Signed Date