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Launceston Town Council
The Town Hall
Launceston
Cornwall PL15 7AR

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
held on TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall

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

Prayers were read by Reverend Clancy

2402/26 Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cornwall Councillor Paynter

2402/27 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest

2402/28 Public Representation Session
There were no public questions

2402/29 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 16 January 2024 at 7.00pm
(ii) Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council held on Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 7.00pm

2402/30 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) Library, Arts, Business and Information held on Tuesday 9 January 2024
(ii) Planning and Economic Development held on Thursday 11 January 2024 at 7.00pm
(iii) Extraordinary Finance and General Purposes held on Monday 22 January 2024 at 7.00pm
(iv) Planning and Economic Development held on Thursday 1 February 2024 at 7.00pm
(v) Estates and Properties held on Monday 5 February 2024 at 10.00am

2402/31 Reports from Cornwall Councillors
Cornwall Councillor Conway advised that Cornwall Council had agreed a 4.99% increase in its budget and also stated that an increase in the Tamar bridge toll had been agreed

Cllr Harris asked what effect the budget may have on Town Councils. Cllr Conway advised that statutory duties at Cornwall Council would continue but that some sites may be sold

Cllr Heaton requested that the increase in the Tamar bridge toll be considered at the next meeting of the Community Area Partnership

Cllr O'Brien asked if Cornwall Council could undertake the second homes levy tax. Cllr Conway advised that Cornwall Council had agreed the double charge for second homes and that this could raise approximately £20million, but that the scheme could not be brought into effect until April 2025

Cllr Young raised concerns about SEND pupils in the area and asked how many pupils had to undertake long journeys to attend suitable premises. Cllr Conway stated that he would ask for the figures

Cllr Tremain asked about budget savings potential and also stated that the second homes levy must be introduced. Cllr Conway gave details of the budgeting and borrowing levels of Cornwall Council

Cllr Nancarrow asked about the availability of places for SEND pupils. Cllr Conway advised that every place was currently full but that a new centre had been agreed based in Bodmin

Cllr Soanes asked if there were details of what the longest school journey is for a pupil. Cllr Conway stated that he would seek the details

Cllr Bailey stated that registered disabled persons could not use free bus travel before 9.30am but could receive a grant for taxi travel and this was wrong and needed to be investigated. Cllr Conway said that he was not aware that this funding came from Cornwall Council but agreed that the system was illogical

2402/32

Reports and Questions from Town Councillors

Cllr Tremain provided an update on the Cornwall Museum Partnership Heritage Awards. The presentations explored how museums and allied organisations respond to a sense of place in the unique Cornish heritage landscape. At the evening awards, Lawrence House Museum was awarded a Highly Commended certificate in the object of the year category having submitted an 1830's Reform Flask, which celebrated the 1832 Reform Act which changed the political landscape of Cornwall and Launceston. Cllr Tremain had also attended a CALC training event on Conflict and Conduct Issues in Town and Parish Councils between Employees and Members and would copy details to all councillors for information

Cllr Lankston gave an update regarding the Chamber of Commerce and stated that the organisation currently had 56 members and that it was working with the Twinning Association in regards to a Twinning shop window event

Cllr Heaton spoke about the Primary Care Hub and advised that this was based at Launceston Medical Centre and that more details on the Hub were being discussed by the Patient Participation Group. Cllr Heaton also stated that she had met with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall and invited them to a future meeting of the Council

Cllr Young gave an update from the Lawrence House Management Committee meeting and advised that artefacts from the museum were now being moved to the storage units at Pennygillam, and stated that volunteers were sought in assisting with the move. Cllr Young also provided an update from the Youth Council where four schools had attended

and were awarded funding for school projects following them giving presentations on what their individual school required and how they would put the money to use

Cllr O'Brien raised the issue of unwanted hospital equipment being disposed of rather than being returned to hospitals and asked if any action could be taken

Cllr Harris provided an update on the recent CALC meeting where a presentation on Alzheimer's and Dementia services in Cornwall was given

2402/33 Report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor

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

2402/34 Report from the Town Clerk

Members considered Report 07/24 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** that;

- i) the update regarding the work and events provided by the library be noted
- ii) the update regarding the Library Hub Design tenders be noted
- iii) it be noted that interviews for the Grounds Maintenance Team vacancy will be held on 20 February
- iv) the monthly RAG report be noted

2402/35 Council Policies Update

It was **resolved** that;

- i) the Vexatious Complaints, Subject Access Request and Lone Working policies be agreed
- ii) the Health and Safety policy be considered at the March meeting of Council

2402/36 Traffic Delays and Roadworks

It was **resolved** that Cornwall Council be asked to consider the operational times of road closures and road works so as to have less impact on residents and businesses

2402/37 Councillor Surgery Rota

It was **resolved** that:

- i) the councillor surgery table be at the library entrance
- ii) signage be erected outside of the library on the day of the surgery
- iii) surgeries be advertised on the Council web page and social media sites
- iv) future displays include;
 - March – Safer Greener Streets
 - April - Connect Launceston
 - May – Library Hub
 - June – Skatepark
 - July – Town open spaces
 - August – Town Team
 - September – Youth Council
 - October – Councillor information

2402/38 Mayor Elect 2024/25

It was **resolved** that Notices of Motion be used for nominations for Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the civic year commencing in May 2024 and that nominations are received for consideration at March Council

2402/39 Correspondence and Matters to Note

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

2402/40 Urgent Items

- i) It was noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall will attend the June meeting of Council
- ii) It was agreed to enquire if the Council could use the Community Area Partnership camera to explore ways of broadcasting Council meetings

2402/41 Exclusion of members of the press and public

It was resolved that under s1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they involved the likely disclosure of confidential information

2402/42 Staffing Committee Minutes

It was resolved to receive and adopt the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 January 2024

2402/43 Notification Relating to a Property Asset

Members considered Report 08/24 concerning the above (previously circulated)
It was **resolved** that the Town Council advise Cornwall Council that it does not wish to explore the potential for the acquisition of the property asset at 5 Exeter Street

Date of the next meeting of the Council

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 March 2024

The meeting ended at 8.11pm

Signed Date