

ST ANNE'S ON THE SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd March 2021, 6.45 pm via the conferencing app Zoom

Present: Councillors Gardner, Green, G Harrison, J Harrison, K Harrison, Jacques, Lanyon, Little, Settle, Small, Trudgill, Willder.

Officers: Town Clerk Kevin Martin. CEM Sarah Dunn, TEPO Darrel Treece-Birch.

Members of the public: 0

The Chair opened the meeting and asked all Councillors to observe our standing orders and use Zoom etiquette as regards asking to speak, muting their speakers, showing their hands when voting and not allowing themselves to be distracted.

Some intermittent loss of connectivity was experienced throughout the meeting.

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of Mr Arnold Sumner, a former Town Councillor who had passed away in February.

C18/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies. All Councillors were present.

C19/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensations.

C20/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2021 be agreed as a true record of the meeting. Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C21/21 MINUTES

The minutes of the Planning Meetings held on 21st January and 18th February were noted.

The minutes of the Policy & Resources Meeting held on 16th February were noted.

C22/21 ACCOUNTS

The schedule of payments (greater than £300) totalling £29,260.35 covering the period 9th January 2021 to 15th March 2021 was received.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the payments list be approved. Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C23/21 NEW HOMES BONUS 2021/22

The expected grant of £13,723 awarded from a total allocation of £1.161m was noted.

C24/21 MEETING TIMETABLE

Discussions of the draft timetable of the committee meetings from May 2021 to May 2022 considered how best to facilitate attendance by councillors given work and Borough Council commitments.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That Policy & Resources committee will revert to a daytime slot of 1.30. Planning committee will meet at 1.30 and Council will remain at its current 6.45 time so that all Councillors should be able to attend. The dates for the meetings were also accepted.

Voting 11 for; 0 against; 1 abstention

C25/21 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The current position is that meetings are held via Zoom and responses to applications can be considered in advance of receiving the agendas. The collated responses are available for the day of the meeting, which only takes place if it is deemed necessary to discuss applications or due to a member of the public wishing to observe the meeting.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the current way of working can continue as long as statutory requirements are met.

Voting 11 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions (Note Cllr Willder's connection was lost at the time of the vote)

C26/21 FESTIVE LIGHTS SWITCH ON

A review of the proposed date took into consideration the likely weather conditions, other areas' Switch On events and time needed to support the retailers in any lead up to Christmas.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That 20th November 2021 is to be the switch on date for the festive lights in St. Anne's.

Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C27/21 STAFF HANDBOOK

The Clerk had produced a handbook which had been reviewed by officers as well as the Clerk's Management Team. It is based on the local government Green Book and guidelines from the National Joint Council.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the document be approved. Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C28/21 MEMBER / EMPLOYEE PROTOCOL

The Clerk had produced a protocol document detailing best practice relevant to local government.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the protocol document be approved. Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C29/21 COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Councillor K Harrison provided the following update:

The planned window display at the former J R Taylor store will not be taking place due to internal works however a number of items have been made by local care homes as well as Clifton Primary School. These will form part of an online display via Facebook. Cllr Harrison thanked all who have participated so far in the group's activities.

A summer event is planned subject to rules according to the roadmap nearer the time.

A bike rack / stand is to be bought and installed in the town centre, hopefully in Garden Street subject to Borough Council agreement.

C30/21 PROW GROUP

Councillor Settle outlined previous work undertaken on the public rights of way (PROW) close to the Richmond Point development. The PROWs are a unique area of open space within St. Anne's which the Town Council wishes to protect and enhance through projects and by working in partnership where possible.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That £7,000 of funding be allocated from the 2021/22 New Homes Bonus towards the Nature Park project and adjacent public rights of way (PROWs). Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C31/21 TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS

The grants process has undergone review and limits of the Small Grant Fund have been set at £1000 and the total Support Grant Fund at £8000. The Support Grant document has been rewritten to the extent that it now forms a new scheme.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the Town Council Community Grants document be approved and adopted. Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C32/21 TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

Councillor Trudgill reported that recent meetings of the main TCWG and the St Anne's Subgroup have been held. Appointments have been made to the roles of Town Centre Manager and Economic Development Officer advertised recently by Fylde Council.

C33/21 STEP

Councillor K Harrison attended the recent STEP meeting where their new governance arrangements are being discussed and greater business representation is one of their aims going forward including a public meeting once these are permissible.

C34/21 ST ANNES FUTURE

The identity of the Town Council and the future of the town itself needs to be considered in parallel with the wider plans concerning regeneration, community governance proposals and other changes. It encompasses not just updating the Town Council's logo but also how this links with the Strategy group.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

a That a small task and finish group be appointed to consider options for St. Anne's and report back to Council in May 2021.

b The group members are Councillors Gardner, Little, Green, G Harrison and K Harrison.

Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C35/21 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That the Task and Finish Group set up at item 6.4 could make initial submissions to Fylde Council with suggestions for St. Anne's.

Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C36/21 LGBCE REVIEW OF FYLDE

The Town Clerk reported that it has been determined that Fylde Council is to reduce its number of councillors to 37 from the current 51. Councillors therefore may wish to comment on the changes to the current 6 wards in St. Anne's as well as commenting on the wider consultation of the borough if they wish.

A report had been presented at the last Policy & Resources Committee in February 2021 and as of now, no comments had been received by the Clerk.

Councillor Green reported that this is on the Finance & Democracy committee agenda at Fylde Council next Monday.

The closing date for comments is 5th April 2021.

ACTION: The Clerk to draft a response to the review on behalf of SATC which the Chair and Deputy Chair are to sign off

C37/21 FLAGPOLE AND FLAG – WESTGATE ROAD

It is suggested that having a flagpole in the Westgate Road / Squires Gate Lane area would help promote a sense of being in St. Anne's for the residents. Advice sought from Fylde Council states that planning permission would not be required.

AFTER BEING PROPOSED AND SECONDED IT WAS RESOLVED

That in principle a budget of up to £1000 be agreed for the provision of a flagpole and town flag in this area.

Voting 12 for; 0 against; 0 abstentions

C38/21 FYLDE COAST FARMS V FYLDE BOROUGH COUNCIL

On 9th March 2021, a Supreme Court hearing took place concerning the St. Anne's Neighbourhood Development Plan and an ongoing challenge to it made by Fylde Coast Farms. The Town Council was being represented by Fylde Borough Council. Fylde representatives are very optimistic of the outcome which is due in April.

C39/21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting finished at 8.52 pm.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 18th May 2021 at 7 pm.**

This meeting, at the time of producing these minutes, will be held via Zoom however this is subject to there being an extension to the temporary legislation allowing virtual meetings. Further details will be announced.

Signed as a true and correct record

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Chairman 18th May 2021