

CALLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Full Council
Minutes
24th October 2017 at 7.30pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Before the official proceedings Cllr M Smith welcomed everyone and the Reverend said prayers.

Public Session

Cllr Tolman spoke on behalf of some residents that have approached her about recent matters in the town.

Firstly a number of messages had been received concerning the Youth Centre and the planning application for its redevelopment. Cornwall Council have a moral obligation to retain this legacy, to keep suitable youth provisions in perpetuity for the town.

Secondly, Cllr Tolman also spoke about the use of empty flats and houses by Cornwall Council for housing.

Cllr Long would respond as part of his Cornwall Council report, later in the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES:

CLLR MADI BURROWS & JAMIE DOWDALL

Present: Portreeve & Mayor: Councillor Mark Smith

Councillors: Maria Coakley, Graham Fox, Karen Gold, Andrew Long, Rick Lumley, Debbie Smith, Mike Tagg, Suzan Tolman and Peter Watson

Officer: Helen Dowdall, Town Clerk **Members of the Public:** 0

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 26th September 2017 were agreed as a correct record of proceedings.

3. MATTERS ARISING - None

4. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – None.

5. POLICE MATTERS

Cllr Tagg reported that the Police phone adjacent to the Council Chambers steps has finally been installed.

Cllr Fox had experienced a very distressing situation last week and was very alarmed by the Police response times. Details on the incident and a proposed motion were put to the table.

Resolved. It was proposed by Cllr Fox seconded by Cllr Long and agreed (9 Support, 0 Against and 1 Abstention, Cllr Coakley) to write to the Devon & Cornwall Police about this matter and request a written response, as to what happened.

The Clerk echoed similar concerns, having had a highly vulnerable person in the office last week and the disappointment with the support provided by the Police service.

The office had received a request for CCTV footage from an insurance company, concerning an incident in Fore Street. For clarity it was recognized and accepted, unanimously, that the CCTV footage is solely for the Police and no other third party.

6. FIRE MATTERS

Cllr Fox had approached the local Fire Brigade about a feature in the Newsletter to raise awareness about the valiant work of their officers. In response they confirmed that they have a Twitter account @CallingtonCFRS and perhaps we could share this link in the Newsletter to enable residents to keep informed of all their efforts.

7. REPORTS

a) Planning Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Tolman seconded by Cllr Coakley and agreed (1 Abstention, Cllr Lumley) to agree the minutes of the 10th October 2017.

b) Town Hall & Premises Committee. It was proposed by Cllr M Smith seconded by Cllr Fox and agreed (1 Abstention, Cllr Lumley) to agree the minutes of the 10th October 2017.

c) Outside Services Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Gold seconded by Cllr Tagg and agreed (unanimously) to agree the minutes of the 10th October 2017.

d) Finance & General Purposes Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Tagg seconded by Cllr Gold and agreed (1 Abstention, Cllr Long) to agree the minutes of the 26th September 2017. A meeting had been held earlier this evening.

e) Staffing Committee – The Portreeve and Cllr Long have completed the staff appraisals and identified some training issues. The training aspirations have since been discussed with the respective Chairs.

f) Health & Safety Update – The Annual Review with Hygiene2Health is scheduled for late November. The Portreeve also explained a near-miss incident in the foyer (as detailed earlier under the Police section).

g) Any other reports [not for decision]. – Cllr Gold reminded everyone about the Halloween Disco on the 31st October, 6pm-8pm, calling for help, support and raffle prizes at the event. Cllr Gold reported that a meeting of the Christmas committee had been held earlier today and things are processing well.

Cllr Fox had attended the recent Caradon Area Network meeting and went through what was discussed, including the planning training and what the Police Crime Commissioner had said.

Cllr M Smith had met with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and they supported the recommendation to seek alternative consultants to proceed with the Plan. Interviews will be held with the two consultants, which come recommended by Cornwall Council. These interviews will be held with the Planning Officer in attendance, to give guidance and support on the evaluation process.

Cllr M Smith is continuing a dialogue with Mr Distin, concerning the land and property he has in New Road. A further meeting will be held in a few weeks once Mr Distin has pondered over the recent conversations held.

g) Reports from Cornwall Councillors. Cllr Long had circulated his report prior to the meeting. He went on to address the questions raised in the Public Session and reiterated Cornwall Council's position concerning the former Youth Centre. He went on to encourage Councillors to attend the forthcoming budget consultation exercises being organized by Cornwall Council. The Clerk would circulate details sent through by the Steven Foster.

h) Reports for Kelly Bray. Cllr D Smith had nothing to report other than two cars had been broken into recently.

Cllr M Smith explained the necessity to relocate the defib (currently located at the Swingletree) for a variety of reasons. The adoption of the nearby phone box may provide an alternative solution and Cllr M Smith would investigate this further, bringing details back to Council for consideration.

8. FINANCE

a) To receive any concerns regarding the finances, in order to decide on a suitable course of action, namely a position statement on the arrears.

The Clerk had received the completed Annual Return from Grant Thornton at the end of September, which is now available on the website <http://www.callington-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Audit-for-the-Year-Ended-31st-March-2017.pdf>

Arrangements have now been made to commence the interim internal audit for 2017/2018 with Dawe, Hawken and Dodd, and likewise for the Clerk to provide similar audit services to other town and parishes. **Noted.**

9. FOR INFORMATION – To receive a request from One Callington to support their website (Report circulated previously)

A lively debate was had on the merits of this initiative and what involvement the Town Council could have.

Resolved. It was proposed by Cllr D Smith seconded by Cllr Coakley and agreed unanimously that at this moment in time we are unable to provide financial support but would welcome a re-appraisal of their situation in six months, once they have established their financial viability, clarification on their structure (including membership not followers) and details on their governance arrangements.

10. FOR DECISION – To receive an update on the Library Service project from Cllr Watson.

Cllr Watson is waiting on further information from Cornwall Council but a meeting has been scheduled for late November. **Noted.**

11. FOR DECISION – To receive the indicative budget aspirations from the Committees, in order to set the Precept for 2018/2019.

The Clerk had collated the aspirations from all the committees in order to ascertain an initial starting position for the new financial year budgets. Together with the use of earmarked reserves for many of the projects, the Town Council could be looking at a rise of six per cent (subject to confirmation on the Taxbase).

A lengthy discussion then followed on what the rise should be, taking into consideration the position with Cornwall Council and any devolution projects.

Resolved. It was proposed by Cllr Long seconded by Cllr Fox and agreed to go back to Committees asking that their aspirations be reviewed and what their position would be if the Town Council mirrored a rise in line with Cornwall Council (3.97%). Detailing the implications and consequences of a reduction in their budget aspirations, for example if the proposals are statutory (must have) or discretionary (nice to have).

12. ANY URGENT ITEMS

- a) The Clerk reminded everyone about the Lone-Working Training tomorrow.
- b) A letter from the Lions Club regarding Honey Fair had been received and would be put to Outside Services to consider arrangements for 2018.
- c) The Clerk gave a report on National Conference which she attended last week.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.06pm.