

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the **Annual Town Meeting** held on Thursday 28 April 2016 at 6.00 p.m. in the Shire House Suite, Shire House, Bodmin

**PRESENT:** The Deputy Mayor, Councillor J Gammon, presiding; together with Councillors, A J Coppin (arrived 6.25 p.m. from Item ATM/2016/002), J R Gibbs, S J Horne, A M Kerridge, S Kinsman, J M Lyne, G G C Minors, P L G Skea, R Solomons and K W Stubbs.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr S Facer (Town Clerk) and Mr D Kinnair (Committee and Cemeteries Officer).

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES:**

The Chairman had no announcements and apologies were received from Councillors J H Hartill, L G J Kennedy, S R Stephens and C J M Wilkes.

ATM/2016/001      **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 April 2015.**

These minutes had been before Council and were acknowledged as a true record.

The Town Clerk apologised to Mr Colin Bell, who was in attendance, that a question he posed at last year's Annual Town Meeting regarding the total amount of money that the Council had spent on the Public Rooms since it had been closed in 2013 had not been answered, but that the Town Clerk will contact Mr Bell with this information as soon as practicably possible.

ATM/2016/002      **Presentation by Mr Colin Garrick from Cornwall Wheels to Work on the Wheels 2 Work scheme.**

Mr Garrick provided a comprehensive overview of the Cornwall Wheels to Work scheme, which is based in Camborne and has been in existence since 2004 and which supports people in Cornwall to access employment, when there is no public transport available to meet their needs.

A moped, electric bicycle or pedal bicycle will be loaned to eligible individuals, who are unable to take up employment due to the lack of public or private transport. To be eligible, the applicant will need a clean full provisional driving licence; a letter from their employer confirming employment; safety equipment, motor cycle helmet, jacket and gloves, which can be purchased from the scheme; confirmation that there is no public or private transport available to meet their needs in getting to work and a compulsory basic training certificate for motor cycles.

The minimum contract is for 12 weeks and two types of motor bike can be hired, either a 125cc at £36.00 per week or a 50cc at £30.00 per week. These fees include insurance and servicing. Assistance with this hire cost may be available through the Job Centre.

Mr Garrick confirmed that the scheme receives no grant funding, except for some initial funding from Cornwall Council for set-up costs to buy the equipment. The servicing of the bikes is carried out with a project that runs in parallel with this scheme, which gives people with learning disabilities the

chance to acquire skills in re-building, servicing and fixing pedal bikes.

Mr Garrick requested that this scheme required promotion in this end of the County and would be obliged if the Council could promote the scheme via the Council's website and through word of mouth.

The Town Clerk agreed to pass their information to the Cornish Guardian, CAB and to the SLCC and CALC.

The Chairman thanked Mr Garrick for his attendance and presentation and invited him to stay for the remainder of the Meeting.

ATM/2016/003

### **Questions from Members of the Public**

There were two Members of the Public present at the Meeting, Mr Pete Hodges and Mr Colin Bell.

Mr Bell had five questions that he put to the Chairman, each of which were answered in turn with the following information:-

- 1. Can we record individual Councillors' attendance at meetings on a regular basis?** – The Town Clerk advised that this was possible and could be included as part of the Annual Report but that just recording attendance did not always provide a clear narrative of what contribution an individual made to the Meeting, whereas the Minutes of the Meetings, which once ratified, are available on the Council's website, recorded those Members in attendance and also provided a suitable narrative of what was discussed and agreed, or otherwise in the Meeting.
- 2. How is BTC going to increase public participation in the decision making process, especially as the budget is set in 'secret'?** – The Town Clerk commented that Mr Bell, as a former Councillor, was aware that there are a number of issues that are discussed by Councillors, such as staffing, financial and contractual third party negotiations that are required to be held in the 'Confidential' section of the Meeting but that the decision regarding the precept is agreed and published in the 'open' session of the Meeting with the Council's Annual Report and Annual Financial Statement available on the Council's website or in person at the Council Offices.

Councillor G G C Minors commented that public participation should first be with your local Councillor in your ward and that communication was the key element. However, communication was a two-way street and sometimes both the Public and the Council struggle with communication issues.

Councillor A M Kerridge believed that more Council debates could be completed in 'open session' and would encourage the Public to attend more Meetings, especially in the run up to budget setting, so as to get a flavour of what the Council are discussing.

Councillor S J Horne commented that unfortunately the Council were seen negatively and that more public engagement was the only way to achieve and encourage increased public participation.

3. **How many pieces of 'art' are there in the public realm owned by BTC and where can I view them?** – The Town Clerk confirmed that a list was compiled and available from the Public Catalogue Foundation and was also available to view on their website.
4. **How many Museum artefacts have been lost, stolen, damaged or affected by their atmospheric conditions over the last 5 years?** – The Town Clerk stated that he did not have this information to hand and confirmed that he would email Mr Bell with the details requested.
5. **Has BTC made any commitment to constructing new toilets in the town?** – The Town Clerk confirmed that no commitment had been made to constructing new toilets in the town but that a scoping exercise had been undertaken regarding the refurbishment versus rebuild of the Priory Park toilets. The Town Clerk confirmed to a supplementary question from Mr Bell that toilet provision was a discretionary service provided by the Council and was not a statutory requirement.

The Chairman thanked the Members of Public for their attendance and contribution.

ATM/2016/004

**Any other Urgent / Relevant Items which the Chairman Considers Appropriate**

There being no other items, the meeting closed at 6.40 p.m.