

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **Annual Town Meeting** held on Thursday 8 March 2018 at 6.00 p.m. in the Shire House Suite, Shire House, Bodmin

PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor S H Kinsman, presiding; together with Councillors E Ahearn, P Brown, J A Bassett, J P Cooper, P T Cooper, D A Henderson, A M Kerridge, K J Phillips, L F Sanders, K W Stubbs, P L G Skea.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr S Facer (Town Clerk), Mrs A Banks (Responsible Finance Officer) and Mrs B Briggs (Senior Admin Assistant).

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES:

The Chairman provided an overview of the meeting, outlining that the Police were in attendance to provide a brief update on policing in the town and then taking questions.

Apologies had been received from Councillors A J Coppin, L L Frost, and J Gammon.

The Chairman introduced herself and invited all Councillors present to introduce themselves.

ATM/2018/001 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 9 March 2017.**

There were no matters arising and these minutes were approved and passed for signing.

ATM/2018/002 **Update from Sgt Andy Stewart, Devon and Cornwall Police**

Sgt Andy Stewart introduced himself along with his colleagues PCSO Ellie Richards and PC Peter Fox. He explained that they were members of the neighbourhood team working across Bodmin and Wadebridge, of which Sgt Stewart was team leader, and PC Fox was Risk Manager, meaning that he deals with any issues causing a risk to Bodmin, including the reputation of the Police.

He explained that there were three beat managers across Bodmin and Wadebridge, and that they have recruited two PCSOs. Due to austerity cuts, measures have been taken to meet financial constraints but he noted that staffing is as it should be in Bodmin and is forecast to remain so for the next two years, so any staff leaving will be replaced to keep staffing levels consistent.

Sgt Stewart reported that crime was up this year, and that this was the trend nationally. In particular there had been a rise in violent crime. This had come after a decrease in crime across consecutive years. However, he pointed out that this could relate to changes to crime recording by the Police, as well as more people reporting crimes. He said that the police had noticed the increase in Bodmin, with particular concern around vulnerability, with a trend of criminals befriending vulnerable people in order to exploit their circumstances and to steal from them. He advised that the Police look to offer support to victims as well as investigating crimes and following lines of enquiry to see that individuals are managed through the judicial system.

Sgt Stewart reported that another focus was drugs as Bodmin, like other large towns has a drugs problem, affecting the lives of users and also their families and the wider community. He noted that Bodmin is certainly not unique in having this problem. He commented that there were some drug users in Bodmin who were unable to afford their habit and may resort to stealing, shop lifting or working for drug dealers. The police have recently been working on a County Lines project, watching where drugs are coming in to the county and rural communities, and have been working with the Metropolitan Police. The obstacle they come across is that, in order to be able to prosecute, someone has to give evidence which can be a barrier given the risks to individuals around retaliation, which is a heightened risk for the more vulnerable victims of crime.

Sgt Stewart also reported that there was a focus on antisocial behaviour. He commented that he understood the frustration around this problem and said that the Police had been working closely with Bodmin Town Council on its prevention. He noted that the introduction of CCTV is helping as a deterrent as well as an investigative tool. He pointed out that antisocial behaviour has always existed. He noted the perception that the police were not doing enough to address this problem. He offered assurance that they are, but that there are difficulties in proving who committed offences without catching them in the act in person or on CCTV, even if the individual(s) are known to the police. He also noted that the judicial system takes time when dealing with juveniles. They may go through process several times before eventually receiving a caution but that when they reach 16, they are more likely to receive a custodial sentence.

He noted that the winter months tend to be quieter, but they are hoping the number of incidents does not pick up again as the weather improves. He encouraged people to report any 'gossip' they hear regarding who is supplying drugs, or committing acts of vandalism as, to the police, gossip is intelligence which allows them to start to seek evidence in order to prosecute. He highlighted that people can call Crimestoppers, 101 or their local policing team.

He also pointed people toward www.devon-cornwall.police.uk, highlighting the 'Ask Ned' feature which allows people to explore matters of interest or importance to them. He also mentioned that the links from this page to Action Fraud, which offers guidance on internet crime, and to the anti-terrorist hotline. Lastly, he said a lot can be learnt about neighbourhood policing by signing up on the website for alerts about categories of interest.

Sgt Stewart then invited questions from Councillors and members of the public.

Councillor P T Cooper enquired as to whether Sgt Stewart could advise as to whether CCTV had helped identify individuals for prosecution. He commented that he had received feedback from several members of the public questioning the expense of the CCTV system and wanting feedback on its effectiveness.

Sgt Stewart stated that CCTV is an excellent tool, providing the offence is captured. He reported that Bodmin has the best camera system of any town in Cornwall, but that there were inevitably areas not covered by a camera. A member of the public queried whether this was due to the positioning of the

cameras, but Sgt Stewart stated that it would simply not be an effective or realistic use of funds to have every single street covered by cameras. He also pointed out that it is hard to quantify the effectiveness of CCTV in terms of prevention, as those being deterred do not commit a crime, therefore they are not reported and cannot be counted.

Sgt Stewart stated that CCTV is an excellent investigative tool, especially in relation to victimisation of vulnerable people around town, for example if being forced to a cashpoint to withdraw money against their will. But he also added a cautionary note about the level of information being provided in the public domain, in order to ensure the continued effectiveness of the system. He noted that other towns adopted a similar approach to the release of CCTV information.

Councillor Cooper stated that he understood that there were difficulties in reporting specifics, but that the people of the town have invested through their precept and would like the expenditure justified. Following a recent visit to Tolvaddon control centre, he understood this to be of concern to other councils and also mentioned that those monitoring the CCTV would also like to get feedback.

Sgt Stewart stated that he would speak to his Inspector about the possibility of quantifying some useful data, but that the staff time required in compiling any such information would also need to be taken into account.

The Town Clerk commented that Bodmin Town Council would look to work with the Cornwall Fire, Rescue and Community Safety Service (CFRCSS) and the West Cornwall CCTV Group to seek better publicity of the effectiveness of their respective CCTV systems. Sgt Stewart agreed that this would be helpful but noted that it would need to be clarified that statistics would likely be related to number of requests for CCTV footage, rather than the number of crimes solved using CCTV.

Councillor P Brown then raised the question of there being no police presence at the fireworks display at Bodmin Town Football Club as it was a large public event and he was aware of public order offences occurring. Sgt Stewart responded that this was a private event, therefore the responsibility for security inside the perimeter of the event lies with the event organisers. There were several displays on that weekend, and if there was to be a police presence at each event, there would not be adequate staff to also police the rest of the town.

Councillor Bassett enquired about Shop Watch and the purchase of radios for shop owners. Sgt Stewart reported that they were currently going through the process of procuring them, but that they required radios that can also link in with the cameras, allowing shop owners who have suspicion of an offence being committed to talk to each other, whilst also being able to tap into the cameras. He also informed that there would be a radio at the police station. Councillor Bassett felt that the majority of shop owners were pleased to be involved but some were unsure how effective it would be. Sgt Stewart commented that the stronger the group is, the more successful it will be. If all

shop owners in Bodmin were involved, it would be a very powerful tool for sharing intelligence. Councillor Bassett then queried the potential of situations becoming violent. Sgt Stewart responded that in no way would this system replace policing and that shop owners were not expected to do anything more in terms of taking action, with the police still being on hand if such incidents occur.

A member of the public enquired about the enforcement of parking on double yellow lines, as there was a problem with obstruction on Honey Street with lorries parking and blocking access to the shops. Sgt Stewart responded that this was Cornwall Council's (CC) responsibility to enforce, and that it would only be a police matter if there was a wilful obstruction issue, such as parking on a bend and causing a dangerous situation. In such a case, he advised that the right course of action would be to call 101.

Councillor J P Cooper then enquired about Bodmin police station becoming a hub, as outlined by the Police and Crime Commissioner. He asked whether that would equate to any additional police personnel in Bodmin and with the increase in population due to the new housing developments, he hoped to see this. Sgt Stewart responded that he understood there was to be an additional 500 officers across Devon and Cornwall and, at a recent meeting with CC, Bodmin was specifically mentioned with it being felt that that they could not fail to identify issues in the Town that needed to be addressed, so he believed and hoped that this would equate to additional resources in the town.

Councillor P T Cooper enquired as to whether the creation of the police hub would include cells. Sgt Stewart responded that he believed it would, and that Bodmin lent itself to be a custody centre due to its geographical location in the county.

Councillor Brown enquired as to whether that should have been taken into consideration at the time of building the police station. Sgt Stewart responded that there were more custody centres then, and that it would have been viewed as unnecessary expenditure at the time. As well as the physical building, other resources needed to be considered, such as provision of custody sergeants and medical resources. Following the announcement of further cuts it has been necessary to close down some custody centres and Bodmin had now been identified as a suitable location.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Stewart his colleagues for attending and for answering questions. This section of the meeting being complete, Sgt Stewart, PC Fox and PCSO Richards left the meeting.

ATM/2018/003

Questions from the Public

The Chairman stated that the meeting would be moving on to other questions. She noted that questions had been encouraged in advance to allow time for answers to be prepared and that the questions received in advance would be dealt with first, before opening out to the room for further questions.

A copy of the questions received in advance had been distributed to members

of the public on arrival at the meeting.

1) Dog Fouling at Hillside Park – Can BTC facilitate volunteer dog wardens?

The Town Clerk commented that dog fouling is a blight on our community and is detrimental to the enjoyment of our open spaces and the daily walk to school, to work or into the town. He reported that Councillors had been speaking with CC to address this matter and that the Council were aware of the issue and keen to progress it. He noted that an item was to be on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting to be held on Thursday 22 March 2018 in order to progress the discussion.

He commented that there are issues around health and safety to be considered with regards to volunteer dog wardens. He also highlighted the fact that current legislation means that the owner must be caught in the act in order for action to be taken. A member of the public enquired as to whether the discussion at Full Council would be in the open session, and the Town Clerk confirmed that it would.

A member of the public enquired as to the staff members who were previously trained to issue tickets. The Town Clerk confirmed that those members of staff were no longer working for the council and that, with the current legislation and with the current level of staffing at the Town Council, it would be very difficult to facilitate this.

The Chairman reiterated that this matter would be raised at the next Full Council meeting for further discussion.

2) Gas Mains Works – length of time taken to complete and perceived lack of activity on works sites:

The Town Clerk reported that there was a meeting arranged with Wales & West Utilities to be held on 15 March 2018, where he would be following up on the strongly worded email he had already sent, which had been copied to CC, expressing the public's frustration at the length of time being taken to complete works, and how often the sites appear to be inactive. Robartes Road and St Mary's Road had both been cited as particular examples, with Councillor P Cooper reporting that a resident had fed back to him that he had not seen any work on site on St Mary's Road for two weeks. A member of the public also commented that the traffic lights on Robartes Road were consistently faulty, and that the traffic building up at these sites also has an adverse effect on pollution. The Town Clerk advised that he would be updating on his meeting with W&W at the Full Council meeting to be held on 22 March 2018.

3) Open Spaces Protection:

A member of the public had queried whether it would be possible to apply to protect BTC owned public spaces under the Fields in Trust scheme. The Town Clerk reported that the Council is keen to protect its open spaces around the town and to look at ways of increasing financial assistance without increasing

the precept. He noted that BTC had recently acquired the Lower Midway Road play area from CC via land transfer and had also acquired the play area on Beacon Heights (Northey Road) via land transfer from the developer.

The Town Clerk noted that the first step in this process would be to work through the land registration process with land registry and that piece of work will need to be actioned prior to any Fields of Trust application process. He added that BTC would also need to consider the legal implications of the Fields in Trust process.

4) Use of granite slabs from the Bodmin Growth Deal road works:

A member of the public queried plans for the reuse of the granite slabs recovered from the road works, and suggested a standing stone circle at Hillside Park as an option.

The Town Clerk reported that BTC Parks Team had incorporated some of the smaller pieces of granite into flowerbeds in Priory Park and that some could potentially be used to form seating areas. The Parks Manager had previously considered a stone structure but there are issues to work through to mitigate risk given their weight at anything from 1.5 to 3 tonnes each, and the obvious health and safety implications around fixing methods and ongoing maintenance. Sinking them into the ground was an option but this would come down to the concept and how they would be set out and related costs.

In addition, the Town Clerk noted that there are also limitations at Hillside Park given the presence of an underground cable which has restrictions around what can be installed above its route. There are also the ongoing discussions on the principle of a car park on this site (subject to contract). He noted that this matter would need to be considered by the Council through the Properties Committee.

5) Dark Skies – light pollution:

A member of the public queried the light pollution coming from Callywith College, and whether BTC could make it policy to ensure this is taken into consideration with any future developments. The Town Clerk reported that BTC are only consultees on planning applications, and therefore any policy implemented could be overruled by the Cornwall Council as the Local Planning Authority. However, he noted that BTC has made, and continues to make, consultation responses based on mitigating light pollution given the Dark Skies designation, as they did at the time of consultation on Callywith College.

The Town Clerk noted that Bodmin is outside of the Dark Skies buffer zone (which is a 2-mile area around the core area of designation) so was unlikely to trigger any proximity concerns with the dark skies designation; however the Town Council consultation responses will continue to include representations on these issues, as appropriate and on a case-by-case basis.

The Town Clerk also commented that, aside from Dark Skies designation, there are other lighting considerations and controls already in place through the National Planning Policy Framework and CC do implement policies to take into

account the Dark Sky designation both in the Cornwall-wide Local Plan (policy 23) and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan which is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

6) 2018/19 Budget:

A member of the public queried whether BTC intends to publish the full budget now that it has been set, and now that the precept has increased.

The RFO reported that this information had been published, and that it could be found in the section of the BTC website, under 'Documents' called 'Local Government Transparency Code'.

The RFO also commented that BTC had been working on transparency and had posted more information than in previous years based on feedback from the public as to what they would like to see. The Town Clerk added that, in terms of staff salaries, the requirement was only to publish any salaries of £50,000.00 or higher, but BTC intended populate the website with the salary bands of all BTC staff in a bid to be more transparent.

In response to a comment regarding the precept increase, the Town Clerk clarified that Bodmin is not the highest precept in Cornwall but is 5th and noted that some of the 2.37% increase in precept was due to the various projects BTC had planned for the forthcoming year, but also outlined the fact that the figure for Council tax on Band D properties is used. Bodmin has fewer Band D properties than other large towns. The problem being that the other Band properties (A to C) are calculated as a percentage from the Band D figure. The RFO also noted that Bodmin has a higher proportion of benefit claimants and the adjustment for that population also has an effect on the reported figures in comparison to other towns.

The RFO commented that she is working on a document that will be posted on the website that explains the information published by CC, and the adjustments that take place in order to come up with the published figures, to make it as easy as possible for members of the public to understand.

Councillor P Cooper noted that, included in Bodmin's precept, are a number of services traditionally taken on by CC that BTC have already taken on. Other towns are now having to take on those services, and factor in capacity for this in their budgets so higher precept rises could be expected in those towns in future years.

The Chairman noted that, by aiming to keep the precept rise as low as possible, it would limit BTCs ability to take on additional projects. Instead, the focus over the coming year would be on delivering the projects currently budgeted across the term of the current Council.

7) BTC Property / Room hire:

A member of the public had requested a breakdown of the income from hiring's for all BTC properties. They also enquired as to what BTC had done to increase

revenue, how the spaces had been marketed and what BTC's plans were to increase revenue.

The RFO outlined that she would like to provide some context in terms of what BTC had discussed in terms of its properties before addressing the question.

The RFO explained that the current Council were very keen to look at ways of generating income by looking at every operational property, believing that income generated from these should be supporting services for the people of Bodmin.

The RFO reported that the properties are currently not being marketed and had not been actively marketed for the past year. This was due to the fact that the Shire House required a lot of work and the costs would be significant. The exiting Council in 2017 had voted to leave the decision to the incoming Council to allow them to make decisions they could see through during their term. The incoming Council had subsequently reviewed this matter and were looking at how the Shire House and other buildings would best work for them. This review of how each property, and what the Council would like to get out of the portfolio, would be taking place in the future.

The Town Clerk explained that the starting point for this process was to look at the feasibility of relocating Council staff from the Shire House to Shire Hall, with the aim of creating a Town Hall. Should this project be feasible, the Council could then look at how best to maximise Shire House rental. The aim would be for income from the Shire House rooms to offset the cost of providing the Shire House Suite at reduced rates to community groups. He explained that the Council had already started work on reviewing the leases of their longer term rentals.

A member of the public then queried the museum's position following the sale of the Public Rooms. The Town Clerk confirmed that the museum holds a 25 year lease for the property at £4,500.00 per year, with the first three years being rent free.

8) Narisa Hall – since it's rebuild, what percentage of time has it stood empty and what are BTC going to do with the building:

The RFO confirmed that the previous tenant, Bodmin Town Band (BTB), had returned the keys in January 2017. Since then, the Council had kept the space free as alternative accommodation for the Bodmin Community Association (BCA), but that this period had ended in September 2017. Since then, the matter has been taken through the Properties Committee and the decision was taken to advertise Narisa Hall with the option of a change of use. The draft advertisement was currently under review, so the Council would be in a position to advertise the property very shortly.

9) What training do Councillors receive in order to be competent in their role?

The Town Clerk confirmed that the following training courses had been completed by Councillors:

- Being a Good Councillor;
- Code of Conduct;
- Finance;
- Planning (including a specialist planning conference);
- Performance Management;
- Internal Audit;
- Strategic aims and objectives workshops (a series of)

And that other training was an ongoing process as Councillors start to work across different areas. Upcoming courses being planned included:

- Employer Responsibilities;
- Treasury Management;
- Risk Management.

The Chairman thanked those submitting questions in advance, as it helped in being able to provide fuller answers. She also thanked the Town Clerk and the RFO for preparing the information.

The Chairman then invited questions from the public in the room.

A member of the public, a business owner on Honey Street, reported that the Bodmin Growth Deal scheme had had a detrimental effect on Honey Street traders. He also commented that the previous Mayor had advised business owners that, during the road works, they could place signs for their businesses at the top of Honey Street in order to attract custom. He reported that, since the completion of the road works, this practice has continued which meant that some shop owners have signs for other shops outside their own, and that the volume of signs is blocking pedestrian access Honey Street.

He stated that he had been in touch with the Highways Agency, who had advised that the matter was Bodmin Town Council's responsibility. Although he appreciated that this is not the case, he was hoping that the Town Council could assist in following this up on his behalf.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he would follow this up with the Area Surveyor, and the Chairman agreed that this would be put on BTC's list of things to raise with CC.

The next question was a request on behalf of the Walker Lines Gymnasium Trust (WLGT), who believed they should qualify for section 106 monies but did not seem to be able to make progress with applying for this funding. At a recent meeting on 1 March 2018, the Regeneration and Projects Client Manager at CC had told representatives of WLGT that they could be put on the list for funding, but they have heard nothing more about this since.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he would ask this question on WLGT's behalf.

A member of the public then enquired as to what long terms plans BTC has in place.

The Chairman outlined the CC Development Plan and the Town Framework, both CC initiatives, details of which could be found on the CC website.

She advised that the Town Council aims and objectives document was currently in draft form and was being taken to the next Full Council meeting on 22 March 2018 for discussion. This document took into account most of the projects discussed over the past 12 months and would take BTC up to, and in some cases slightly beyond, the four-year term of the current Council. The Town Clerk added that the priorities within this document would be reviewed each year. Some things may be required to come onto the list in consideration of urgency, which may in turn result in other items being removed, or adjusted in terms of priority.

A member of the public raised the issue of the need for a new cemetery, and was assured that this was at the top of the current list of priorities.

A member of the public then queried how much input Bodmin Town Council has in terms of allocation of Section 106 monies by CC. The Town Clerk confirmed that the allocation of funds was at CC's discretion.

It was then queried as to whether S106 monies coming from the Bodmin Jail development would be utilised in Bodmin. The Town Clerk confirmed that this was the case, but that CC would allocate these funds. He understood that the intention was to use this money towards sporting facilities to offset the loss of open space, and also to look road infrastructure, with a focus on the Fiveways junction.

Councillor J Cooper enquired as to the future of St Lawrence's Church. He stated that he is required to declare a Non-Registerable interest in this item when it is raised at Bodmin Town Council meetings, but as a member of the public at the current meeting, he would like to ask the Town Council for assurances that when it comes to renewal of the lease, it should be treated as a special case, in consideration of what it stands for in the town, having been part of the hospital and being run by people who used to be hospital staff. He requested that, as the only costs to Bodmin Town Council are grounds maintenance it is treated with reverence and not considered on a commercial basis.

The Chairman explained that the Town Meeting was to take questions from the public and not to discuss Council business, but that she appreciated Councillor Cooper's position and, although she could not offer assurances, she could certainly take this point for discussion as appropriate in future.

Councillor P Cooper then asked, on behalf of a member of the public, about the amount of vandalism in the town, whether there is an increasing trend, and whether Bodmin Town Council keeps a record of damage and the amount spent on repairs.

The Town Clerk confirmed that they do keep a spreadsheet tracking incidences of vandalism, where they are reported, but noted that accuracy relies on reporting, so some incidences will inevitably be missed. For example if a member of the Parks Team were to come across minor, easily repairable, damage, they will carry out the repair, and not always record this as vandalism on any time sheet. He reported that the trend appeared to have declined in the past 12 months, with a peak between June and September 2016 when approximately £10,000.00 of damage was caused by a core group of youths.

The Town Clerk then reported that the toilet blocks receive the majority of the vandalism, and also that a case of vandalism in a BTC play area had resulted in a subsequent accident due to tampering with play equipment.

Councillor P Cooper asked for clarification as to whether the spreadsheet tracked only BTC owned property and the Town Clerk confirmed that this was the case.

Councillor P Cooper then specifically mentioned vandalism at the cemetery. The Town Clerk summarised that the damage incurred in this case was the heads reportedly being cut off flowers. He noted that, as well as children playing in and passing through the area, the Parks Team had noticed deer accessing the site from neighbouring agricultural land. He confirmed that BTC do liaise with the police over acts of vandalism and encouraged members of the public to report these via 101 or online.

Councillor J Bassett commented that Bodmin is very fortunate to have so many volunteers and that she didn't know where the town would be without them. The Chairman agreed that they certainly contribute to the improvement of the town, and that she felt lucky as a Councillor to have the opportunity to get out and meet so many people. She commented that staff and volunteers are a credit to the town.

A member of the public reported that the lead organiser had just stepped down from CleanUp Cornwall after over a year of arranging litter picks around the town. It was understood that she had grown despondent due to the work that has been put in and the litter problem being just as bad as ever. New volunteers are being sought to take over the organisation of the litter picking events. The Chairman commented that this departure was unfortunate but understandable, and noted that she would write to thank her for all her hard work to date.

A member of the public commented that in a year of litter picks, the group had collected nearly 600 bags of rubbish. He questioned the effectiveness of CC's contract with Biffa and whether it could be renegotiated as he felt that contracting someone to pick up the minutiae of litter through the town centre may not be the best use of resources. It was noted that the contract would be renegotiated in 2020. The member of the public enquired as to whether BTC could put any pressure on CC to have the contract reviewed at an earlier point. The Town Clerk commented that Bodmin Town Council has weekend litter pickers for Town Council sites and that he will certainly write to CC again on this subject.

Councillor P Brown also enquired as to whether there is there a review process as to the effectiveness of the Biffa contract that can take place before the contract term is up for renewal. The Town Clerk confirmed that this would form part of his email to CC.

The Town Clerk also noted, however, that the responsibility lies with the individuals dropping the litter. He noted that there are plenty of bins provided around the town and it is a shame that some individuals choose not to use them. Councillor A Kerridge agreed with this point as someone who has been involved in litter picking, noting how frustrating it is, and commenting that it is up to all of us to use our influence wherever possible to encourage people not to drop litter in the first place.

A member of the public asked about the possibility of getting the local schools involved, encouraging the next generation to take pride in the town. Councillor Kerridge agreed with this idea, but noted that adults also need to be encouraged in some way.

Councillor J P Cooper raised the recent discussions around interest in pedestrianising Fore Street. He wanted to be sure there would be full and open consultation and stated that Bodmin Town Council needed to be sure that CC will consult them. This point was noted.

A member of the public enquired as to the outcome of the CC organised drop-in centre for the Building a Better Bodmin scheme, and whether the feedback from this event had been taken on board. The Chairman confirmed that feedback was being used as part of the place-shaping forum. She confirmed that those running this event kept in regular contact with BTC.

Councillor J P Cooper enquired as to whether the feedback from the IntoBodmin 'What do you love about Bodmin' stand at the Share Fair held in June 2017 had been considered.

The Town Clerk reported that, in terms of IntoBodmin, the information had been used to help create the stand which was going to be exhibited at the British Tourism & Travel Show at the NEC in Birmingham. He commented that the aim of the Share Fair stand had been to get people's positive feedback about Bodmin to help in building the town's brand, but they had unfortunately received some negativity about what Bodmin means to some. He confirmed that work is still continuing through the place-shaping forum and acting as a catalyst for wider engagement.

A member of the public was aware that there was interest in arranging another Share Fair in 2018. She enquired as to whether, it being a free event for the town, the fee to hire Narisa Hall and Priory Lawns could be waived by BTC. The Town Clerk responded that he had not received any such request to date, and that any request received by BTC would certainly be considered at the appropriate Committee meeting in due course. The member of the public enquired as to whether it was likely that Narisa Hall would be rented out by this time, and the Town Clerk responded that the property is about to go on the

market and therefore he was unable to confirm at the current time.

The Chairman updated those present that BTC was in the process of reviewing hire charges across their properties and asking themselves questions about improving community spirit and engagement but without the risk of running at a loss which would impact the rest of the precept payers of Bodmin.

A member of the public enquired as to any progress with the lease for the Bodmin Jail car park at Hillside Park. The Chairman responded that conversations were ongoing but there was not a final outcome as yet.

Councillor J P Cooper enquired as to whether there is anything BTC could do to speed up the repair of the railings at the Town wall. The Town Clerk confirmed that he was already following up on this.

A member of the public wished to express their praise for the improved openness of the current Council. The Chairman thanked him for his comment.

The Chairman then thanked all those attending the meeting, stating that it had been a valuable evening. She hoped that all questions had been answered, and that if any questions had not received a full response, the appropriate Councillor or Officer would follow up by email.

ATM/2018/003

Any other Urgent / Relevant Items which the Chairman Considers Appropriate

There being no other items, the meeting closed at 7.47 p.m.