

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL

KONSEL TRE LOGH



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LOOE TOWN COUNCIL
Held in
The Council Chamber, Looe Library and Community Hub, The Millpool

30th January 2024 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Smith (TR) – Chair
 Cllr Stephen Remington (SR)
 Cllr Simon Barker (SB)
 Cllr Chris Harwood (CH)
 Cllr Jasper Graham-Jones (JGJ)
 Cllr Armand Toms (AT)
 Cllr John Holmes (JH)
 Cllr Martin Gregory (MG)

IN ATTENDANCE: Lynda Powell – Town Clerk (TC)
 Donna Folland – Admin Officer (AO)
 Fiona Wilkes Jones – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Members of the public: None in attendance.

	Welcome	Action
78.	<p>To Receive Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received. It was RESOLVED to accept apologies, along with the reasons given, from Cllr Hannaford, Cllr Haresnape, Cllr Powell and Cllrs Lundy who were unwell and Cllr J Pearn who had other commitments. Proposed Cllr Remington seconded Cllr Gregory. All in favour.</p>	
79.	<p>To Receive Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Cllr Toms declared his interest in matters pertaining to Cornwall Council, Looe Harbour Commissioners and Looe Development Trust.</p>	

	<p>Cllrs Smith and Cllr Holmes declared an interest in matters pertaining to item 88 on the agenda due to owning holiday lets.</p>	
80	<p>To Receive Questions from Members of the Public</p> <p>None in attendance.</p>	
81.	<p>Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th December 2023. Proposed by Cllr Toms, seconded by Cllr Graham-Jones. All in favour. 2. It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2024. Proposed by Cllr Remington seconded by Cllr Holmes. All in favour. 	
82.	<p>Mayor's Report</p> <p>Cllr Smith provided a report to Councillors circulated prior to the meeting.</p>	
83	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Town Clerk provided a report to Councillors circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors thanked the Clerk for a comprehensive report.</p>	
84.	<p>Cornwall Councillor Updates:</p> <p>Cllr Toms discussed the urgent need to bring Safety to the A38 and comparisons to other regions in the country included within his report.</p>	
85.	<p>Council Committees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cllrs discussed the report provided by Cllr Lundy. The report features the public meeting that is arranged for 13th February at 6pm in The Millpool Centre to consider the Outline Planning Application PA23/10211. This meeting will enable various points expressed by the community, to be considered. Discussion ensued regarding the Community Area Partnership and the Councils dissatisfaction regarding Cornwall Council's responses to enforcement cases, an email letter has been sent. b) Cllrs had received a report for the Finance and Strategy Committee circulated prior to the meeting. No questions. c) Cllrs had received a report from the Services, Assets and Community Committee prior to the meeting. The report highlighted the excellent 	

	<p>work of the library team, and the New Council vehicle is working well within the team. Cllr Holmes informed the Council that liability for the Grit bin Claim has been denied.</p> <p>d) Cllrs had received a report from the Business and Learning Opportunities prior to the meeting. Cllr Remington discussed the Community and Stakeholder Engagement programme and the commissioning of Real Ideas Organisation to undertake the programme. Councillors are encouraged to attend the Real Ideas drop in Event on Thursday 15th February at the Millpool Centre.</p> <p>e) Discussion ensued regarding the proposed building at the Millpool and the deadlines for the expiration of surveys already completed. The need for a land stability Report is not required for the initial planning application. Cllrs agreed that the Town accelerator fund of £11,250 will be used to fund the Real ideas consultation £9,755 and planning application of approx. £4,000 the council would fund the remaining £2,500.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to submit a full planning application before the end of February. Proposed Cllr Remington and seconded by Cllr Graham Jones. 1 abstained/ 5 in favour.</p>	
<p>86.</p>	<p>Finance: Cllr Barker requested that item 86 should go to PART 2.</p> <p>In accordance with S1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, it was RESOLVED to move the meeting to Part 2 and exclude the public and press from the meeting during consideration of the following matters.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Toms seconded Cllr Smith. All in favour.</p> <p>Councillors had received a report prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the staff pension scheme and Councils contributions and the proposal to move towards the levels of Cornwall Pension Fund (LGPS). The council staffing committee propose to increase council contributions from 3% to 10% on 1st April 2024, with the aim of getting towards the current LGPS rate at 19.6%.</p> <p>Councillors agreed to return to PART 1.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the proposed increase of the 2024/2025 Councils Precept to £481,675.00. along with the proposed increase of employer pension contributions to 10% from 1st April 2024.</p>	<p>RFO/TC</p>

	<p>It was RESOLVED to increase the precept to £481,675.00 and for the employer workplace pension contribution to increase to 10% from 1st April 2024. It was agreed to circulate a briefing note for Councillors about the precept increase. Proposed Cllr Barker, seconded Cllr Gregory. All in favour.</p>	
87.	<p>Skatepark</p> <p>Cllrs received a report prior to the meeting. The TC discussed the need for actions to be completed to progress the project further. The option for another organisation to take on the lease is not possible. The heads of terms have identified that the devolution of the land can only be for the purpose of a skatepark. Devolution of the site is time restricted and the project would need to be delivered within 2 years. The importance of LTC facilitating the project and not being responsible for the running/day to day</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to not accept the Heads of Terms and restriction on the devolution of the land. Council are happy to accept the need in principle for a skate park in line with the original resolutions, but not in the current form .</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Gregory and seconded Cllr Holmes. 3 for/1against. 1 abstained.</p>	
88.	<p>Volunteering in Looe</p> <p>Cllrs received a report prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Cllrs Holmes and Cllr Smith Left the room. 7.14pm.</p> <p>Discussion ensued to whether to join other councils for a feasibility study for implementing a voluntary visitor payback scheme. It was agreed that the revenue raised would benefit the town precept, and that working with other local councils would be a strong and useful movement. It was agreed that the council are interested in supporting and working with other councils however the cost of £5,000 was disproportionate to the size of our council. Cllrs would like to see the cost spread dependant on proportion of population.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to agree in principle to support the joint venture with financial contributions proportionate to each participating council's size and with a limit for LTC contribution being £3,000.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Remington, Seconded by Cllr Graham-Jones. All in Favour.</p> <p>Cllr Holmes and Cllr Smith returned to the meeting.</p>	
89.	<p>Looe Food Festival</p> <p>Cllrs considered the request to manage income and expenditure on behalf of the 2024 Looe Food Festival. Cllrs discussed that they would be happy to support</p>	

	<p>this year but will not accept liability for any debt and that the RFO manages all invoice requests for this year. Requests for Community Grants were considered:</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to support the 2024 Food Festival this year without accepting liability for any debt.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Toms. Seconded by Cllr Graham-Jones. All in Favour.</p>	
90.	<p>Downs Road Store</p> <p>Cllrs considered the review of the Downs Road Store and the potential repair cost of £8,750 and lack of agreement with Cornwall Council.</p> <p>Cllrs discussed the building is used by the Scout group for storage. The TC will contact the Scout group and report to council on whether they still require the storage and also contact West Looe Town Trust for alternatives.</p> <p>Cllrs discussed the need for the Services and Assets Committee to make the decision.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to contact the Scout group and West Looe Town Trust regarding the requirement for storage and possible alternatives.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Barker, seconded by Cllr Holmes. All in favour.</p>	<p>TC contact Scout Group/West Looe Town Trust.</p>
91	<p>Community Grants/Donation</p> <p>Cllr Barker left the meeting 7.37pm</p> <p>a) It was RESOLVED to agree funding of £750 for Looe Development Trust: Moor to Sea project in relation to the Smugglers Trail signage.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Remington seconded Cllr Graham-Jones. All in favour.</p> <p>b) It was agreed to seek advice from CALC for guidance on the application for a donation/grant to support the upkeep of both churches and St Martins churchyard.</p> <p>c) An application for a donation/grant request to support the New Years Eve firework displays in Looe was considered. Cllrs proposed that an invitation to apply again when the deposit requires payment, and that any shortfall in their funding up to a limit of £2,000 be offered after April 2024.</p>	<p>TC to seek advice CALC</p>

	It was RESOLVED to consider the application shortfall up to a limit of £2000 be considered when their deposit requires payment after April 2024. Proposed Cllr Holmes seconded Cllr Harwood. All in favour.	
76.	Date of the next meeting: 25th March 2024	

The meeting concluded at 7:50pm

Signed _____

Date _____