



## CAMELFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk: Esther Greig

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### Annual Parish Meeting – 20 March 2018

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Camelford Hall, Clease Road, Camelford on 20 March 2018, at 19:30.

#### Persons Present/Apologies

In attendance: Cllr Rotchell, Town Mayor, E Greig, Town Clerk, Cllr P Guesford, Cllr A Shaw, Cllr A Burgis, Cllr S Elford, Cllr C Hewlett, Cllr E Grigg, Cllr A Dawe, Cllr S Goodman, Cllr K Ferguson

Members of the press/public.

#### 1. Introduction and Welcome by the Mayor, Cllr Rob Rotchell

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed parishioners and Councillors. There will be a supplementary item as part of update by Mayor - PC M Dodds will be giving a report on the latest police activity.

#### 2. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting – 18 April 2017

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed.  
Cllr Shaw, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Ferguson unan

#### Matters Arising

None.

#### 3. Update by the Mayor, Cllr Rob Rotchell

Elections held last year. Potential of electors 2,311 of which 11 people put themselves forward. 11 seats available. Uncontested. Councillors have attended 95 meetings plus training over the past year.

The Mayor reported on the activities of Camelford Town Council (CTC) over the past 12 months:

- Completion of devolution of Library (due to open 4 April 2018)
- Kissing gate installed
- Riverbank repairs completed March 2017 – more scheduled for this year
- Market place resurfacing
- Liaison with South West Rivers Trust regarding fish passage
- Grants given
  - £5,000 Camelford Sports Centre
  - £1,000 Lanteglos (grass cutting) £500 roof repairs
  - £1,000 Camelford History Archive Trust
  - £1,200 Camelford Hall (toilets)

- £350 Camelford Town Band

- Defibrillator purchased for Camelford Hall
- Camelford Show, AQM
- Skate Park “The Old Cattlemarket Skatepark Plaza”
- Skate Park – grant to SITA – awaiting result – Town Trust Lease 25 years
- Skate Park – engagement with parents/youth of Camelford. SJS and Camelford Primary.
- Refurbishment of Enfield Park Play area – awaiting grants and s106 money.
- New staff: Lisa, Horticultural Apprentice. New staff for library
- Bollards in car park to protect the ancient Cornish wall
- Bench for Philip Lessels
- Bollards by allotment parking
- Successful Fun Week and Music in the Park – drama workshops, poetry workshops, new mural for the town. Secured £1,000 grant from FEAST.
- Poetry bridge – April (work from poetry workshop)
- Cemetery – resurfacing of paths and enlargement of parking area/planting/deer fencing/orchard
- Library – opening 4 April – new staff Scarlett Sage, Livvy Ferguson, Sammy Emery
- Bandstand lid – this year
- BBQ area – this year
- 2 extra dog bins (Trevia and Trefrew Rd) and dog bag dispenser in Enfield Park
- Volunteer gardeners – new planters by the library/enhancement of planting/heather beds at Mount Camel
- Speedwatch – Councillors will continue to work on monitoring speeding through Camelford
- NDP – nearing completion – public consultation planned April/May
- Overseen 44 planning applications

**3a** PC M Dodd gave report. Seconded to do investigation work but now back in Camelford. Claire Drennon has joined Jowan at Camelford. Been with force 20 years working in various roles. Emphasis changed – protecting and safeguarding people. Working with vulnerable people reduces crime. Forcewide, crime gone up due to historic data - domestic violence, which has been included in this years figures.

Community Speedwatch continues in St Teath and Delabole. 423 warning letters sent out. 18 letters hand delivered to second time offenders. Vast majority of offenders in those areas continue to live there. Hope volunteers will be trained in near future for Camelford. PC M Dodd invited questions.

Cllr Rotchell wanted clarification that these figures are for the Camelford Area Network not just Camelford. PC M Dodd confirmed the area covers whole network area from Warbstow down to St Teath.

Member of the public asked what is recorded in public safety figures? Answer - things like barbed wire on footpath – anything that affects safety of people. PC M Dodd explained each incident category.

Member of public noted that it is worth paying for police services. Queried Council Tax for police services.

Member of public asked if it was fair to say majority of crimes have increased? PC M Dodd said they had not and outlined those that had gone down. Ones that had gone up were due

in part to historical data (eg domestic violence). One category that had gone up was possession of drugs. This issue is mainly in Tintagel and this problem is being addressed.

Cllr Rotchell noted he would be concerned if we took away message that there has been a radical increase in crime in the Parish as not the case. He reiterated the figures are for the whole network and includes historical data. Cllr Rotchell asked how can we extrapolate Camelford's data from the area network information? PC Dodd cannot do that for every parish to breakdown. Happy to try and extrapolate information and report at a future meeting.

#### **4. Jen Graham, Environmental Protection Officer, Cornwall Council (CC) Air Pollution Consultation**

Jen outlined proposed measures in draft action plan. Would like it noted that the consultation is still open until 2 April so time to comment.

- Bypass and alternative HGV Route. Report by Cormac says suitable long term solution to air quality. Recommends the idea should be progressed but involves considerable work. Business plan £1m. HGV route also need further work. Bypass likely to be 10 years away. CC will support plans and help but have to look at other options that could make improvements.
- Further actions: Not saying will compete with bypass. Smaller improvements when joined up can make a difference.
  - Working with hauliers to reduce HGV traffic. Identifying fleet firms that travel through Camelford. Send smaller vehicles or cleanest vehicles. Provide a forum to promote new technology to reduce emissions.
  - ECOSTARS – Fleet operators – gives them advice on making fleet more efficient, reducing fuel costs and reduce emissions. Free for fleet operators but cost to CC. No money as yet to pay for this. S106 money and grant funding will be used to fund this work.
  - Promoting car sharing – established car scheme for Cornwall. Scheme matches drivers. About behaviour change. Any reduction in journeys positive.
  - Encouraging and promoting alternative forms of transport – buses. Buses not going to replace need for the car but consider if an option. Impact in short term small.
  - Promoting low emission vehicles. Vehicle charging points in new build developments/towns.
  - Sustainable school travel – another focus asking people to consider other ways to take children to school. Walking buses and school travel plans.
  - Efficiency of buses – use cleanest vehicles in areas of poor air quality. Capitalise on central government funding for bus fleets.
  - Enforcing no parking on double yellow lines in towns. Needs better enforcement. Deter people from stopping and causing congestion. Priority in short term.
  - Signage to promote air quality messages. Variable message signs. Switch off engine if in traffic or avoiding areas with congestion.
  - Information – message that all vehicles contribute to air pollution and every small change can help. Private diesels main contributor. HGV not the biggest problem. Understanding not just lorries that are a problem. All vehicles.
  - Anti-idling – sought funding to promote message switch off if stopped for more than 5 minutes. Burn more fuel and worse emissions. Asking for funding to progress and get volunteers to help. Awaiting decision any day now. National Clean Air Day likely to help with that message.
  - Anti-idling – designated zone. Could be option around traffic lights to combat idling engines.

Whilst a bypass would bring levels to acceptable levels, too long term to sit back and do nothing. Report to Defra action plans. Not acceptable to wait for bypass, need to look at what can be done in the short term. Constraints in Camelford – narrow roads and pavements, very restricted in what we can do to improve air quality. Jen Graham invited questions:

Member of public outlined problems when A30 closed. Diversion done to A38 but all traffic came through A39. Lives on Victoria Rd. Would like CC to take on board that next time

there is a closure on A30, don't come off at Kennards House through Camelford. Would like CTC to ensure traffic goes on A38 instead of A39.

Member of public asked about viability of a distribution centre on Davidstow. Member of public raised concerns over parking in loading bays and the need for better enforcement. Response from Jen - better parking wardens would deter people. That is what CC are trying to achieve. Does cost more money to have better enforcement. CC want to improve levels of air quality so if her department can get their own parking enforcement officers, then better enforcement may be achieved.

Member of public noted that CTC did a lot of work with major supermarkets asking not to drive HGVs through the town. Ones getting through now are distributors. Cllr Rotchell responded that he will talk about HGVs later in the meeting.

Member of public asked for clarification regarding relationship of car parking enforcement and air pollution department. Jen answered – relatively new reorganisation. Day to day nothing to do with them but senior management works with both departments. Suggested that CTC write to Jen Graham regarding enforcement. Clerk asked to be sent details of who the best person to write to.

#### **Response by Cllr C Hewlett**

Thanks given to Jen Graham. Noted that only solutions 1 and 2 are specific to Camelford – the rest generic – could be for any area. Not helpful for Camelford. Would rather money spent on action on the ground (solutions 1 and 2) rather than publicity. Has recently investigated car sharing site Liftshare.com – 1 person registered in Camelford. Questioned how effective this scheme is. Of the 14 solutions only 13 and 14 may happen if grant to DEFRA successful. Very disappointed. In 2017 whilst readings are still high, they have reduced from 2016 figures. Might a blip but need to wait till next year. CC has a lack of concern for health of residents. Whilst CC statutorily obliged to carry out the consultation it is unfortunately a waste of money.

#### **Response by Town Clerk, E Greig**

Has spoken to CC enforcement regarding parking issues. Unfortunately we cannot pay for them to come and do on street parking. CTC cannot pay or insist they address these issues as it stands.

#### **Response by Cllr Rotchell**

Diverting HGVs – second priority. Not just air quality but safety. Working with Head of Transport. Diverting HGVs could happen in near future (by the end of 2018). Camelford Area Network has been allocated £50k already. Can do for significantly less.

Cllr Rotchell outlined historical issues. A39 detrunked some years ago so fell out of major highways. Re-negotiated and now major road network – allows you to bid for large sums of money. Next wave of capital funding available 2020-2021 and that would be for protects between £20-100m. We must have tried everything on the list. Unless tried alternatives, Government won't consider giving the money. Although not popular in the short term, some of the things that were highlighted have to happen. If given money today would cost £30m. Went up from £14m last time work was done. Equates to a £1.4m per year increase.

We will be putting a bid together for the 2020-2021. Scott Mann very supportive and understands the process. High level options appraisal done by Cormac. Copy in the office in anyone wants a copy.

Member of public read out a letter dated September 2007 from Cornwall Council which stated Camelford bypass remains a priority. Camelford not scheduled for government funding until post 2016. Response – Cllr Rotchell. Reinforced what just said. Plans still there. Nothing much changed but needs reworking in terms of regulations today.

Cllr Hewlett asked how far in advance do we need to commit to allocate that funding? Cllr Rotchell to find out the answer.

Member of public said last HGV diversion route was not viable due to a problem with ice. Cllr Rotchell said it is a different road.

Cllr Shaw – One solution is to rejig traffic light system east of the narrows towards Camelot garage, stop a lot of congestion around the coop. Traffic lights prior to narrows would stop a lot of stationary traffic in the narrows which is a pinch point. Cllr Rotchell response – this year's figures show that main contributor was diesel cars. Part of work diverting HGVs is to look at what we can do in the town, move or add to existing.

## **5. Report by Clerk, Esther Greig on the management of Churchfield Car Park**

Copies at the back of the hall. Has been on website and links to the report published on Facebook. Summarised background:

We have a current car parking order – published 2011 (attached in report). 2hrs free in red zone. 23 hrs free no return in blue zone. When took post 1 year ago, noted that warning tickets put on cars being ignored. Fixed Penalty Notice out of date and not enforced. During Spring/Summer lots of comments from residents struggling to park. People complaining not enough parking. Contractors use did not help. In light of new Health and wellbeing hub, and increased promotion of town centre, need to look at best way of effectively managing car park. Existing signage needs replacing - falling apart and not clear. Ongoing repairs and maintenance required including resurfacing and re-lining of car park. CTC looking at current and future needs. Legalities have changed regarding enforcement. Good idea if going to look at car park to look at entirety and seek residents opinions.

Set up 2 surveys (appendices to report), general consultation for 6 weeks in Summer 2017. Supplementary resident/business permit questionnaire. Report on capacity in winter. Looked at costs (attached) for enforcement. If remains free, still needs enforcement. Need ticket machine to do that and employ CC to enforce car park. Clerk has had advice from National Association of Local Council solicitors. Car park civil enforcement area – police don't manage. As local authority, CC have to enforce car park. Full consultation will happen following feedback at this meeting. Clerk invited questions.

### **Questions from the public:**

**James Carr** – Disappointed questions raised in November had to wait until APM although did agree to defer to this point. Main issues are validity and method of the survey. Information appears to be cherry picked. Those surveyed wanted permits free yet CTC going to charge? Those surveyed wanted costs to be taken out of precept, yet going to charge? Survey should be to gauge opinion, not used to base decisions. Was not informed back in November that there was another consultation. When is the next consultation? Decisions made should be backed up with facts. Requested a survey be done about spaces available. Was done after survey. Has that had any more bearing on decision making as figures do not justify going down charging route? At certain times of day there is considerable number of spaces. Council should not have put decisions out there if decisions were not made.

### **Response from Town Clerk**

Timing of next consultation and content depends on what happens this evening. Questions raised this evening will go to next Council meeting. From that, draft car parking order will be put together. Outline of recommendation outlined in report. If the response to that traffic order is the public do not want it, we will review. But we do need a new order.

Survey indicative – does not mean that is what going to be happen. Decisions were not made rather they were proposals based on the data we had.

Usage survey was done after the consultation. Cannot justify doing surveys every quarter.

**Brian Culshaw** – Will council tax be refunded if there is car park charges?

**Response from Town Clerk**

Council tax will remain the same. If we go with recommendation today, money from ticket machine and permits will pay for enforcement and contribute towards resurfacing. Precept covers general maintenance and loan repayments. We will not be making a profit. Intention always to keep 2 hrs free car park. Permits will only contribute £2k per year. Cost of repairing surface £40k. Need to save £8k per year to pay for resurfacing in 5 years time. Car park costs £30k per year.

**Brian Culshaw** asked whether there will be permits for blue badge holders? Clerk replied that blue badge holders could have a permit in the blue zone (which starts next to the current disabled bay zone on lower level). There will still be disabled bays with 23hrs no return.

**Jenny Finch** - Have you considered giving each household a permit to park free for 2hrs? Cllr Rotchell replied that anyone can park for 2hrs free. It will then be 50p an hour up to 5pm. From 5pm to 9am free. Charging time after 2hrs Monday to Saturday.

Member of public highlighted that the disabled spaces outside the library and liberal democrat club are badly misused. Clerk agreed and stated she has had many complaints. These bays will stay free for 1hr no return 3hrs. If we have enforcement for Churchfield Car Park, CC will also enforce those bays.

Member of public asked about enforcement of loading bays? Clerk stated that loading bays are highways not CTC. Talk of law being changed so that local authorities can enforce.

Member of public asked if private car parking companies will be used? Cllr Rotchell responded "no".

**Dave Ross** – Decisions were posted as fact not proposals. People penalised will be those who live and work in Camelford. Most visitors only stay for 2hrs so won't pay. We are already paying under the precept? What about Clease Road car park?

**Response from Town Clerk**

Reiterated they were proposals not final decisions. The precept pays for maintenance and loans. Not enough money to pay for resurfacing work that is needed. Unless another source of income will have to increase precept again. It is only 50p a week which is considerably less than other towns. Clease Road car park is owned by Cornwall Council.

**James Carr** – Majority of surveyed wanted car park to be free. Clerk said there is not enough money coming in to cover administration costs plus raising money for resurfacing. A lot of permits in other towns are £400- £500 per year. There are also other issues including motor homes misusing the car park.

Member of public wanted to know how we would deal with contractors in the future? The suggestion was that they should pay to use the car park. Cllr Rotchell responded - Yes we can have a conversation but it is not enforceable.

Member of public objected to the Camelford Town Council van being parked there all the time taking up space. The Clerk and Cllr Rotchell asked where we are supposed to park it? No suggestions were given.

**Richard Boundy** – The Council have cherry picked information to justify their decision. The most popular answer in the survey was to pay for the car park by the precept. They ignore

views unless it is what they want to hear. Does not believe any information provided by the CTC. When specifically asked for evidence on complaints, procedures not followed. No evidence of complaints.

**Cllr Rotchell** asked if Mr Boundy would provide evidence of these allegations? We take these accusations very seriously.

**Mr Boundy** said that he had asked for evidence of all of the complaints and issues that had been raised to the council so he could believe what was being said about the car park. The Clerk responded by reminding Mr Boundy that he was invited to read all the comments on the surveys (both negative and positive) and invited Mr Boundy again to look at the surveys in the office (once personal information has been redacted. The Clerk also reiterated that written complaints go on the agenda and responses are minuted. Verbal complaints or comments to Councillors are not logged and in hindsight it would have been helpful to do so. People were also signposted to complete the survey. However, the sweeping generalisation that we do not follow procedures is unfair.

**Cllr Shaw** refuted remarks. Most complaints are verbal and anecdotal. It is not reasonable to expect every Councillor who gets a complaint about the car park to go up to the office and log these.

**Mr Boundy** further asked if there was a time limit on the 2011 car parking order. The Clerk said no. It is still valid by not enforceable.

**Jenny Finch.** Speaking as a former Councillor, the last time there was a car park referendum, people in the town were rude and aggressive. No one could come up with another solution for local people to use the car park. It is full during the Summer. A survey was done to prove this. CTC were accused of secret meetings and lying. None of which was substantiated. The Town Council are making these decisions for the good of Camelford. Not to make money. Not for their own benefit. So that precept does not need to be increased year on year to do maintenance work. Parking needs enforcing.

**Response by Cllr Rotchell.** Reported that there has been bullying and threats to the Town Council – especially through social media to the point that referrals were made to the police. Safety of town councillors being threatened. We are governed by Code of Conduct but does not apply to public.

Member of the public asked if the survey went to every house in Camelford. Response by Clerk and Deputy Clerk. Yes. CTC paid Royal Mail to deliver to all households on the electoral roll - approximately 1,672. We did all we could to ensure as many people as possible got the survey by putting an article in the Camelfordian, on the website, on Facebook and used local shops as drop off locations. There was also information about completing the survey at the Camelford Show and on noticeboards.

**Brian Culshaw.** Is it true that only a maximum of 50 permits will be issued? Clerk responded - No. Unlimited. Anyone who wants one can have one.

**Richard Boundy** Wanted to state for the record that he had not called any town council a liar. In his personal view, CTC has taken an amount of data and cherry picked data to justify decisions already made. Undemocratic. Disingenuous.

Response by Cllr Rotchell – not true. There will be further consultation and results will go back to town council for discussion.

**Response by Town Clerk** – Statistical analysis always open to interpretation. Process is democratic – you have elected uncontested 11 members to represent you and they make decisions in the best interests of parish. Cannot do a referendum on everything that comes up. That is why you have councillors to make decisions on your behalf.

**Dave Ross.** In November, on Facebook, you stated these are the facts – that by April 2018 the car park will be chargeable.

**Response by Cllr Rotchell.** They were a set of proposals not final decisions.

**Response by Town Clerk.** We had to make some decisions in order to take the next step. We needed proposals to work towards.

**Ken Harris** – Councillors work for the good of the town. They are trying to do their best for the community and he has the utmost respect for councillors. They are not paid – it is all voluntary.

**James Carr** responded that it is about holding councillors to account – it is our democratic right.

**Cllr Dawe.** Whether we charge or not, there are not enough spaces in the Summer. Important that car sharing not penalised. Can we look into more spaces or have another car park? Cllr Rotchell responded it was an interesting idea, however, we are still paying the loan for this car park and would have to take out another loan to take on another car park.

**Cllr Shaw.** If didn't take on car park, CC would charge. Unrefutable. CC's thinking is that if they had both car parks, it would be viable to charge. That is the reason – to stop huge car parking charges for residents.

**Jenny Finch** – Perhaps Richard Boundy should stand for election? Richard Boundy said he would if he wasn't working but hasn't the time. A number of councillors responded that they work as well as doing this work voluntarily.

Cllr Rochell asked if there were any more questions. None.

6. Any other matters of interest.  
None

Cllr Rotchell closed the meeting at 8.45pm

Thank you all for attending.