



CAMELFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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Annual Parish Meeting – 2 March 2023

In attendance Cllrs Rotchell, Coombes, Burgis, Grigg, Shaw, Thomson
Apologies: Cllrs Elford, Hewlett

5 Members of the public

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

Welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting. Purpose to give a flavour of work carried out over the past year. Busy year following the pandemic. Most of the council work will be reported by Chairs of the Committees. It was noted that all Committees are public and members are invited to attend. All meetings are live streamed. Thanks to Deputy Mayor, Steve Bond and other members who work hard through the year, most of the work is unseen but many of the things that happen in the town wouldn't take place without their input. Also a reminder that all their work is voluntary. Also to the Clerk and her team that make sure the Council, Library and our estate (including the skate park) run smoothly and efficiently. And Barry Jordan who works on our behalf and constantly reminds the powers that be in County Hall that there is life outside of Truro. Thanks to the volunteer gardeners who do a great job in making sure the town looks bright and cheerful. To the Camelford Christmas Lighting team who help every year to bring the Winter Festival to life. To all grant recipients who do so much to help create a sense of community. Particularly this year to the Directors, Managers and staff of the Camelford Leisure Centre as they celebrate 10 years of running independently. The single big issue that continues to be a frustration is that of the bypass. I have reaffirmed my disappointment that we still have no decision. Costs have spiralled but will continue to be the case until it is built. Particularly disconcerting to hear about the very significant financial investment in the St Austell bypass and the new train line from Falmouth with little investment happening in North Cornwall. Despite this we will continue to press for a decision.

2. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 March 2022

Approved. **Proposed:** Cllr Shaw. **Seconded:** Cllr Coombes. 5 (1abs)

3. Annual Report Town Business including staffing and strategic development – Cllr Rob Rotchell

Over the past year, the following has been addressed:

- Camel Cycle trail extension bid – Sustrans
- Camelford Hall regeneration bid
- Town Centre regeneration bid

- OCM Café
- 20mph speed limit introduction
- Riverside walk signage
- Support for Medical Centre and bypass proposals
- Increased storage at cemetery
- New and refurbished play equipment in Enfield Park
- Clease Car Park transfer
- EV chargers in Churchfield and Clease Car parks
- Website update
- CCTV monitoring
- Youth Worker development
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4. Annual Reports from Committees

(a) Estates and Properties Cllrs Shaw

Cllr Shaw personally thanked the grounds staff and volunteers for their commitment to keep the town clean and tidy, and with planting and gardening program.

This year gave planted many trees around the town with the Centenary Lime celebrating the 100 years of Enfield Park. Two commemorative Copper Beach trees. One for the Life of the Duke of Edinburgh and the 70 years of Queen Elizabeth's reign.

It has planted a Swamp Cypress to celebrate 100 years of the late queen Elizabeth's supporting the scouting movement and two donated Willow trees. In the cemetery it has planted a Darley Oak (a sapling from one of the oldest trees in the county about 1000 years of age) and renewed protective fencing around the specimen trees.

New storage container for expanding equipment. Council members, staff and volunteers have cleared the shrubs at the steps at the entry to the play area. Awaiting new planting program.

Sold the old ride-on mower and purchased a new grass cutting machine which should cut grounds staff time for grass cutting. A lot of work to do to keep on top of maintenance, but with help of volunteers it can succeed in keeping our town looking good.

(b) Finance – Cllr Coombes

Cllr Coombes reiterated all the work that goes on throughout the year, but this has to be paid for. Income generated from precept and grants. Run down of costs incurred throughout the year: Administration £20k. Accommodation/rent £16k, Staff £185k, car parks £29k (maintenance, earmark surfacing, loan repayment and rates), Clease Car Park handed back £4.5k, parks and recreation £25k including pond £3850. Community spend £35k including events (Jubilee, Centenary extra last year), Grants £13k, marketing and tourist information £2.5k. Town maintenance £14,150, CCTV and public toilets £7,000, waste £2,500. OCM £4,500. Finance Committee spends wisely. Clerk has given Q3 report and on budget/target. Cllr Rotchell noted that this spend gives a good indication of what the Council is involved in.

(c) Events

Up until recently, Ala Ackroyd-Johnson has Chaired events. Ayla resigned due to work commitments. A big thank you to Ayla and to all those businesses and organisations that helped us and particularly our Deputy Town Clerk without who these events just wouldn't happen. Over past year, it has organised the following events:

- St Piran's Day Flag workshop
- Easter
- Beating the bounds
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Enfield Park Centenary including Copper Leaf workshop, time capsule in the park, tree planting, circus skills, dance workshop (KBSK)
- Fun Week – slip n slide, tug of war, beacon lighting, dog show, music in the park, mayor's afternoon tea, bird and bat walks, fun run, Brownies Bingo.
- Music in the Park
- 2nd year Friday Night music at bandstand.
- Camelford in Bloom.
- Stall at Camelford Show.
- Supported St Julittas Flower Festival
- 3rd Annual Scarecrow competition
- Halloween
- Small celebration of Quality Mark
- Winter Festival
- Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch.

This year, the flags from last year's workshop will be put around town for St Piran's Day. April – Easter, crafts, competitions. Big events 6 May Coronation Event Picnic in the Park. Live Stream event onto big screen, live music Company B and SAS, food and drink. Free coronation mugs for those who turn up. 1940s fancy dress. Not compulsory.

Fun Week – starts with lighting a beacon. Follow up workshop to make more copper leaves on the tree and a trail in the park, activities in skatepark, Mayor's afternoon tea and reading, bird and bat walks, slip n slide, fun run, Brownies Bingo, Tug of War, Duck Race, MIP. Bands, this year – The Prevention, The Harry Peanut Show, DJ Steve Fudge. Lots of food and drink. On Sunday there will be a dog show. Friday Night Bandstand Live Music again - 8 weeks of live music in the bandstand. Scarecrow, pumpkins on parade, Winter workshops, Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch, Winter Festival. Lots of varied activities for everyone.

5. **To receive reports from organisations that have been in receipt of Town Council Grants**

- The following grants were awarded:
- The Old Bank – tables £219.96
- Top Town Memory Café – sculpture workshop £350
- Town Trust - £4,200
- Camelford Hall toilets - £1,050
- PCC Lanteglos – grass cutting - £1,000
- Friends of Lanteglos – stained glass windows £350
- Camelford Leisure Centre – inflatable £3,000
- Camelford Christmas Lights - £3,694.34

(a) **Jane Moore and Lady Pauline Alexander – Top Town Memory Cafe**

Awarded a grant of £350 to undertake a sculpture workshop with Richard Austin. Everyone had a wonderful time including the Mayor. Well worth doing. Could not have afforded to do it otherwise. Have found an anomaly. Also did icing bunnies.

Cllr Rotchell thanked Jane for work that they do. The number of people that attend and the work that you do is appreciated. Thanks to the Leisure Centre for space.

(b) Kasey Smeeth – Camelford Christmas Lights

Team have struggled over past few years with COVID hindering size of working parties and ability to fundraise. Formalised a Committee September last year. As a result applied for Charity Status so following rules. Will give access to apply for more funding in areas couldn't previously. A lot of effort has gone into fundraising. Coming year, busy planning new displays and will be the best display yet. Cllr Rotchell thanked the Committee and all involved. It is hard work. Weather usually changes for the worst on the day the lights go up, so well done to everyone!

c) Francis Bennett – Town Trust

Francis started by explaining the £4,200 grant. Back when CTC developed skatepark, the Trust was asked (because it is the landowner) to donate 12% of grant £35k. Ultimately, the Town Trust has received this refund as a grant. Main asset is the Town Hall and due for repainting, repairs and at current prices in region of £30-£35k. But more than half is to supply temporary traffic lights. Suggested to trustees to repair and paint parts that do not need scaffold. Have quotes but intend to repair and decorate the pop in doors, two fire doors, canopy and railings but main entrance to library. To replace those parts of the wood would be too much of an expense so will replace whole of the front (apart from semi-circle). Got to apply for listed building consent. This is the first priority. In process of getting quotes for front doors. One window on fascade of building that needs replacing, so considering getting carpenter to fit a window from the inside. Anything that done from the front by the main road a traffic problem. Clerk has tried to find any roadworks that can utilise but not possible. When funds available, will put scaffold to do tower. Woodwork at top is letting birds in, but not in the actual tower. Getting "War Memorial Institute" registered in the name of Town Trust. Again, the War Memorial Institute had a grant and able to refurbish and repair. Another asset, OCM, pleased that CTC is making good use of it. Cllr Rotchell reiterated that the front door is a priority due to security (not shutting properly due to warped wood). Thanked the Town Trust for the work they do.

6. Cllr Barry Jordan report

Cllr Jordan recently met with Scott Bennett from the surgery. Surgery not closing. Transfer to Veor and Dr Garrod and wife working for Veor. Delabole and St Breward still working plus dispensary. New surgery plans been seen. ICB have a list of 1700 that could be registered with the new surgery.

Last year good year for Camelford. Camelford Show success. Big thanks to those involved in organising. Carnival. Devolution deal has taken up a lot of time. Want deal but not devolution Referendum costing £1.4m. Met with Councillor from Bristol was in favour of having a mayor. Last 4 years, not so bad but now getting rid of the mayor. Council tax meeting had to vote 4.9% increase because of COVID, Ukraine War. Seen prices skyrocket. Hopefully now price of fuel and electric dropping, some money will come back. On 18 February met at Old Bank. Doing surgeries on a Wednesday. Shocked by stories. Fortunately lots of grants that people can access. List on CC website, so encouraged people to access that.

Bypass. In Council asked for update. There is a new plan, but reporting by certain media has caused issues. Vowed to keep annoying transport minister. Introduced Margaret Swarz who wanted to outline community hubs. Cllr Rotchell welcomed Margaret. Camelford a good place to start a community hub. New ICB, integrated care board. Unusually, a county and a care board, meant to be pushing services more locally.

Opening of diagnostic centre Bodmin which they put in place so people do not travel to Truro or Derriford. Community Hub idea where can relocate services that are not necessarily NHS but council services, 3rd sector, health services in one place closer to where people live that allow teams of people to be aware of local need. Either groups or individuals need help. No stigma as not NHS badge attached. Working well in Falmouth – Draceana Centre which has local mental health support, café, youth and nursery. Desert in Cornwall – if appetite amongst community makers in Camelford, could push towards a community centre here where can relocate services. Requires energy and enthusiasm. Volunteers needed. Spoke to ICB director and quite focussed on Saltash but suggested Camelford be on the list.

Cllr Rotchell spoke about bid for regeneration of Camelford Hall which included a café and expanding the nursery. £2.5m. Parallel to that, work going on in medical centre. Proposal put together with Old Bank, Camelford CIC, Nursery and Trustees of Camelford Hall. Ambitious bid to recreate a 3-storey building on site. What could go there and medical centre could accommodate everything. Will include some of that thinking as potential opportunities and growth. Cllr Rotchell with contact Camelford CIC and share this thinking so that they can continue to lobby. Margaret said looking at 40-50 hubs, so could also be funds. Cllr Shaw asked that Camelford be first. Margaret said would like both not just Saltash. Local appetite to do both. Only criticism is that it depends on passionate individuals and they are harder to find in smaller communities.

7. Invitations to members of the public to speak

None.

Well done to colleagues. Deputy Mayor Cllr Bond thanked Cllr Rotchell for all his hard work.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.40pm