

CALLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Minutes

14th January 2019 at 7pm in the Council Chambers

1. Welcome, any apologies

Present: Cllrs Gold, Long, Moore, Morgan, Raphael (Chair), Tolman & Watson

Apologies: Cllrs Coakley and Tagg, both were attending another meeting on behalf of the Town Council.

11 Members of the Public

Clerk & Operations Manager

2. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Tolman seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th July 2019.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Disclosure of Interest

Cllr Long explained that as a Cornwall Council he may not partake in decisions that could later preclude him voting/contributing further at Cornwall Council.

5. What have the Council been doing?

Cllr Raphael explained what has already been happening, including (but not exhaustive):

- Rainwater harvesting
- Researching alternative sources of weed spraying
- When trees have needed to be cut back or removed; where possible the wood and/or trunk has been retained to form a wildlife zone
- Native apple trees are to be planted at Launceston Road allotments
- Recycling initiatives have been implemented on our premises, with onus also on the hirers to manage their waste responsibly.
- He will be completing a cleaning audit; to investigate a no-bleach policy and how to push this information out to the public

- Cllr Long also spoke about our paper free policy and being a beacon council on this matter.
- We have also started a fund for an electric vehicle to replace the existing van, as and when needed and practical to do so.
- We are also in a transition period with enhancing the lights throughout the town hall complex.

6. Wildlife Zone Projects

Cllr Raphael explained our aspiration at the cemetery to create a wildlife zone, and how during the winter he has identified eight flowering species flourishing at this site.

Cllr Tolman also spoke about replanting in our parish and the need to protect the native eco-system.

Three trees have been donated to date and the Neighbourhood Planning consultants have also pledged a tree donation.

Local building merchants have kindly agreed to provide (for free), natural materials namely pallets to enable us to build homes for the miniatures of this world, such as bug hotels. In addition, the Chair will ask residents if they can donate any further suitable items, such as moss.

Prior to the meeting a resident had put forward a question about having a meadow for wildlife education, which could be used by the primary school. A discussion then followed on the merits of this and the importance of educating the young people, but there were some concerns about finding a suitable location that would not fall victim to vandalism and could retain its purposes in perpetuity. The idea could be put to the Primary School for consideration.

A brief discussion then followed on about living walls, as another means to provide habitats for our insects, <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=547>

RM explained that a Cornish Hedge is a type of living wall and perhaps we could look to protect and promote these. Similarly, thought should be given to any roofs that could be mossed over or solar panels installed.

Cllr Raphael went on to discuss a boggy area at the end of Mud Lane (Lower Coronation Close) and its suitability as another wildlife area. Any ideas or plans would need to be put to Cornwall Council for their approval, being the land owner.

7. Online Blog

Cllr Raphael spoke about the need to have engagement with the community, and push the ideas out, as there are simple ways to live greener in our own homes.

JP kindly volunteered to help with this, with their experience of video editing.

Cllr Long spoke about the position with Cornwall Council and how Callington has led the way in Planning items. Then went on to discuss the waste contract and how the way our waste is collected and recycled will be changing.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news-room/media-releases/news-from-2020/news-from-january-2020/cornwall-set-for-a-recycling-revolution-as-council-offers-a-new-collection-contract-to-biffa/>

In the past, Caradon had been the top recycling area in Cornwall and it would be an aspiration to regain this title. However, we need to encourage people back into recycling and change attitudes.

A new bus service has just been announced with new environmentally friendly buses. Again, we need to promote alternative means of transport to our residents.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news-room/media-releases/news-from-2020/news-from-january-2020/new-contract-award-means-new-bus-routes-more-frequent-services-and-greener-buses-in-cornwall-from-april-2020/>

Cllr Long also briefly spoke about the Wave-Hub and Hot Rocks Project

<https://www.wavehub.co.uk/>

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/business/economic-development/geothermal/>

The electric grid was then discussed and the aspirations for 2030.

Cllr Moore spoke about the recycling of glass and Cllr Long would ask Cornwall Council how this is done and plans for the future.

RW explained that she has would kindly write articles for the group.

Cllr Gold suggested having a wildlife day, whereby we invite parties to come along and explain about recycling, what you can and can't do. RW spoke about a similar project at Par, whereby other organisations were at hand to explain things

<https://cornwallwildlifegroups.wordpress.com/2019/08/12/a-day-to-remember-in-par/>

Do we have resources at the Community College; working with the media students perhaps?

CR explained that fundamentally we need to change the culture, get the kids involved and at a younger level.

Cllr Long also recognized that we need to get out to the people and not rely on them coming into the hall. Perhaps start with an event day and then involve different sectors of the community, set targets and get people to sign up to the process.

Cllr Tolman reiterated the need to train the children to train their families, so there needs to be an investment with the schools. In holidays for example having events in the parks to build bug hotels.

RW explained that the Wildlife Watch has had trouble engaging with children in East Cornwall, and whether we discuss ideas with them and use their expertise.

<https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/wildlifewatch>

The use of food and food waste was then raised and CR explained that he has instigated a food sharing platform on Facebook, and likewise the Methodist Church have their Real Junk Food Scheme, http://callingtonmethodist.org/church_008.htm

What goals do we want to set?

- To promote at Mayfest and May ½ term?
- Do we know anyone with catering skills that could teach cooking techniques – and cook foraged food?

8. Action for Australia

On the 18th January the Tamar Valley Wombles will be holding a craft event for this cause; <https://sw-ke.latest.facebook.com/events/524351401501512/>

9. Opportunity for attendees to have their say

Representatives from South Hill Parish Council spoke about SHARE (South Hill Association of Renewable Energy); how it works and the schemes they have implemented, such as the shareholding arrangements, PV project on the village

hall, a published booklet, rent a roof scheme, and the investment scheme with a 4% fixed rate loan programme.

<https://south-hill.co.uk/share/>

JS explained her concerns with the local public transport, and its high costs.

10. Next Goals

We want to assist our residents but it's ultimately down to the public to actually take action. The Town Council can be the catalyst and to get information out there.

Attendees were invited to provide information to the Clerk on what help and expertise they can offer, in order to build up a database of information.

Cllr Moore spoke about rivers in the sky and the Brown Willy effect from trees.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_Willy_effect

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/welcome-wettest-place-cornwall-thanks-3371389>

Cllr Morgan asked Cllr Long whether Cornwall Council are considering modular housing, and degasification from household waste.

CB from Tesco's explained a scheme that has been trialed with Jamie Oliver about food waste and cooking, but will clarify the latest position. In terms of the Callington store, food not used at the end of the night is provided to local groups.

<https://www.tescopl.com/news/2019/surplus-food-put-to-good-use-with-tesco-community-cookery-school-programme-supported-by-jamie-oliver/>

RW spoke about food production and working with our allotment tenants and Tamar Grow to push local produce and markets.

RW also explained that consideration needs to be given to wildlife friendly lighting, as many lights are much brighter than they need to be which is having an adverse impact on the environment and wildlife.

Date of Next Meeting - Saturday 21st March at 10am in the Council Chambers, and attendees could then stay on for the litter pick and a free pasty afterwards!

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.35pm.