



Truro Civic Society

Charity No. 204788



Minutes of a Meeting held by the Truro Civic Society
on Wednesday 23 April 2014 at 6.30pm in the Municipal Buildings

PRESENT

Bert Biscoe (Honorary Chairman)
Caroline Jones (Honorary Treasurer)
Colin Elliott (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Armored Carlyon
Councillor Charlotte MacKenzie
Councillor Maurice Vella – guest
Councillor Reg Bowyer
Daphne Worraker
Diane Russell
Edwina Elbers (Honorary Secretary)
June Bowry
Margaret Sellwood
Neil Scott
Robin Holdaway
Robin Sellwood
Roger Shuttlewood
Sandra Trehela
Tony Herring

APOLOGIES

Mike Burgess
Peter Blake
Simon Trehane

The chairman invited a minute silence for Helen Blake and her husband Peter. Helen died recently. Her funeral will be 25 April at Penmount Crematorium.

2) Guest Speaker: Ian Wall – Royal Cornwall Museum

The chairman advised that Mr Wall would be attending at the next meeting.

3) Three Storey 'Town Houses' on the Skyline at Tolgarrick

Outline planning permission has been granted for housing at Tolgarrick Farm. Mr Vella, architect and Truro City councillor, has written a letter objecting to the detailed planning application now submitted by Persimmon Homes. In the letter Mr Vella points out that the proposed development would take Truro over the ridge of its natural “bowl” and once development has overspilled he predicts no end to further development. The house design of the scheme is poor and three storey houses are proposed to sit on top of the ridge, raising concerns over visual impact.

The chairman suggested supporting Mr Vella's objection and voiced his disappointment at “bog standard” buildings peppering Cornwall. He feels Tolgarrick Farm is a site of particular importance as it is the first development to spill over the “bowl” and he agrees with Mr Vella that development will continue - until Truro joins Playing Place! The chairman thanked Mr Vella for his time. Mr Vella left the meeting at 6.45pm.

The chairman will look into issuing a press release. The vice chairman suggested reminding planning officers that the inspector who approved the outline application was sympathetic to the objections and only approved the scheme on grounds of meeting a housing need envisaged by central government.

The treasurer questioned whether the housing targets set for Truro have now been met, considering the recent major housing schemes granted approval by planning. The chairman advised that as no Local Plan is in place as of yet (consultation ends 28 April) housing targets cannot be determined.

Charlotte suggested responding to the Local Plan consultation and commenting on the proposed figure of 3,000 houses for Truro to prevent the number being raised further. The treasurer advised that a form can be filled in online. The chairman, vice chairman and treasurer agreed to submit a response before the 28th. Charlotte suggested that in the response to the Local Plan consultation the society should mention the need for more variety in any new housing (eg flats).

The chairman feels that the current rate of development in Cornwall is not sustainable. Agricultural land needed for food production is being built on and Cornwall's rural character is in danger. Diane suggested that in fact more houses are needed. The chairman quoted the figure of people on the housing list in Cornwall as 31,000. however he believes that only about 3,000 people are in urgent need of housing. The chairman suggested that developers are not looking at what houses are needed but how much profit they can make. Armored added that there is no “housing crisis” but a “housing price crisis” - houses are available but not affordable and building more houses will not necessarily lower prices. The chairman pointed out that Cornwall is a limited geographical area and questioned the sustainability of continuing to build houses with a limit to possibilities of food production, economy, public services etc.

4) Approval of Minutes from the Meeting held 19 March 2014

The minutes were approved.

5) Matters arising

The chairman is chasing the Dark Sky Society for a response to his letter. Reg suggested the chairman write to voice objection to signs on the skyline being lit, like at Dunelm Mill.

The chairman has not heard back from the Market Inn about their history board. He has yet to write to the Daniell Arms.

The chairman will contact CHBN, the local radio station operating from Royal Cornwall Hospital, to discuss promoting relevant topics.

6) Reports

a) Chairman's Report

The chairman handed out his report.

c) Conservation Committee's Report

Minutes of the conservation committee's meetings are available on www.truocivicsociety.com.

The committee reported an application for change of use from hairdresser to single dwelling in Francis Street. No objection.

Thirteen dwellings are proposed behind Penhaligon Court on Tregolls Road. The committee felt there was an issue with access, which would come through Penhaligon Court.

A further application has been submitted for extension of Amberley House care home. Objection.

Ten dwellings are proposed to replace Agriculture House. The committee objected to the demolition of the building.

The committee reported that the Daniell Arms is for sale, which is a listed building.

7) Neil Scott and Totally Truro

Please find a copy of Neil's report attached. Armorel thanked Neil for all his work – traders in the town continue to praise Neil for his patience and the help he gives.

Neil suggested the society push for improvement of the Glass House building site. The chairman advised that planning enforcement would have to deal with the issue.

8) Any other Business

Robin Holdaway queried whether a new roundabout was proposed for Union Crossroads. Neil advised that plans are for a light controlled crossing.

Margaret reported that when shopping at Julian Foye recently she was shocked at the horrendous view across the development site. The chairman advised that the neolithic society will be inspecting the site soon. He will circulate the date.

Robin Sellwood informed members that the film “Trashed”, about the impact of rubbish, will be showing at the Cathedral on 6 June at 7pm and invited everyone to come along.

Armorel reminded members about the Truro Concern meeting at New County Hall on 24 April at 7pm.

Colin was able to report that the boarding has finally been removed from Carvedras.

The treasurer reminded members about the upcoming Cornwall Building Society outings.

9) Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Municipal Buildings on Wednesday 4 June 2014 at **6.30pm.**

The chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.15pm.