



Truro Civic Society

Charity No. 204788



Minutes of a Meeting held by the Truro Civic Society
on Wednesday 4 September 2013 at 7pm in the Municipal Buildings

PRESENT

Bert Biscoe - Honorary Chairman
Colin Elliott
Councillor Armorel Carlyon
Daphne Worraker
Edwina Elbers - Honorary Secretary
Helen Blake
John Tamblyn
Margaret Sellwood
Mike Burgess
Neil Scott
Peter Blake
Peter Dexter
Robin Holdaway
Robin Sellwood
Sandra Trehela

APOLOGIES

Caroline Jones - Honorary Treasurer
Councillor Reg Bowyer
Di Russell
June Bowry
Lindsay Southcombe
Luci Scholes
Roger Shuttlewood
Simon Trehane

2) Approval of Minutes from the Meeting held 16 July 2013

The minutes were approved.

3) Matters arising

Peter Blake voiced several concerns regarding the landscaping of Trafalgar roundabout (money allocated? Plan for landscaping? Who will plant? Maintain planting?). The chairman was able to confirm that a budget has been allocated to the works and that a planting plan is evolving. Nigel Blackler, the head of transport at Cornwall Council would like to see a single large tree, however due to the infrastructure beneath the roundabout it looks as if several smaller and more shallow rooted trees will be chosen. Nine year old Claire Salmon will help to plant the trees with her school. The maintenance will fall to Truro City Council. Armorel Carlyon would like the roundabout to change from season to season and feels this is a wonderful opportunity for something innovative. The chairman will raise Peter's concerns with Mr Blackler.

Daphne Worraker reported that good Western Greyhound buses information boards have been erected outside BHS. Western Greyhound have lost the contract for the P&R but will be able to bid again in 5 years.

The chairman mentioned that the financial position for Cornwall Council's transport department is difficult as the budget has been halved. Community buses are being looked into (small and based in community). A bus network of different operators but with the same livery (similar to London) is being considered.

The chairman advised that the lighting of the Coosebean trail should now be off at night. There had been a problem with the computer programme controlling the lighting.

The cathedral green railings have gone. The chairman pointed out that a compromise will have to be found between security and aesthetics. Robin Sellwood felt it would be good to have some seating arrangements on the green.

Mike Burgess is working on a paper about green spaces.

4) Reports

a) Chairman's Report

The chairman's report was sent out prior to the meeting – please contact the secretary if you require a copy.

Further to his report the chairman added that the sponsorship renewal for the society's website is due and that he will action this.

The chairman urged members to bolster confidence and self-belief in the town by bringing people into Truro - especially in this unsettling time of water/gas works going on in the town centre. Neil Scott voiced his concerns as to who was policing the works with a view to noise, dust, etc. Armorel Carlyon reported that the setts on Boscawen Street had been cracked by the works. The chairman will look into this and speak to Peter Marsh, the director of Cornwall Council's environment department. The chairman and Neil will do a walk around town to investigate the various issues related to the works. Any complaints can be directed to Steve Bampton who is the South West Water liaison officer at 2 Little Castle Street or 07890 256 538.

The chairman reported that a planning application has been submitted to construct City Road steps, which will link the footpath at the bottom of Infirmary Hill to the old city hospital. The conservation officer has agreed a design of 2m wide steps and a wall running alongside in hand-dressed Cornish granite, which the chairman fears could seem imposing and structurally hard. The chairman feels railings would better complement the late 18th century building of the old hospital. He hopes that whatever structure will be decided on will achieve to be aesthetically pleasing in connecting the lower and upper part of the hill.

No progress has been made on 15/16 St Clement Street.

The chairman reported that the pop-up bar at 117 Kenwyn Street has been removed, the fencing however remains. Work on the replacement Glass House building has still not started.

The chairman is meeting with Stanhope about the Pydar Street development. Peter Blake remarked that the landscaping would be of the utmost importance and must make it worthwhile for people to visit.

b) Conservation Committee's Report

Minutes of the conservation committee's meetings are also available on the society's website.

The committee reported that Hugh Lander has been retained as chairman. Concerns have been raised about the new interior of Burtons shop, which has not been inspected. The committee is delighted that the tin shed has been removed from the Glass House site. Plans for the Daniell Arms have not yet arrived. 4 Strangways Villas propose to extend and create car parking spaces between the houses.

Neil Scott raised the issue of the missing railings on the corner of Lemon and Fairmantle Street and at the old Motorworld shop opposite the museum. Armorel Carlyon will put this on the next agenda.

Robin Holdaway pointed out that Fairmantle Street is missing a street sign. The chairman will deal with this.

Colin Elliott queried progress on the reopening of the public right of way by Carvedras. The chairman confirmed that Cornwall Council enforcement officers will remove the wall as the offender has lost his case.

5) Truro City Carnival

The meeting discussed joining the carnival committee but decided not to at present. The question of making a donation was raised.

6) Neil Scott and Totally Truro

Please find Neil's report attached.

The chairman suggested inviting the new Newham BID (Business Improvement District) manager to a meeting. Neil will invite her.

7) Any other Business

Daphne Worraker raised the issue of light pollution. Daphne is concerned about the proposed Tolgarrick development spreading over the rim of the city and thus increasing light pollution. In general Truro's street lighting is downward facing and not yellow, which helps reduce the problem. However Daphne has noticed a few unsightly orange lights (eg at Truro School and Indian restaurant in River Street). The chairman will write to the premises. He reported that Cornwall Council are running a pilot in St Just where lights are being brought down and turned off to reduce light pollution and save on costs.

The chairman is keen to stage another discussion, similar to the one led by Mike Burgess and Luci Scholes. He feels a suitable topic would be the question of which pieces of Truro are most valued and required to be preserved for the future. Possible speakers are John Stengelhofen on brutalism and Eric Berry on Georgian/Victorian architecture. The event could be arranged jointly with the Cornish Buildings Group.

The chairman would like to see an exhibition of Christine Oates' drawings. June Palmer could be asked to open the exhibition. Peter Blake offered to forward the chairman Ms Palmer's address.

The chairman will invite Colin Parker to speak on Moresk Forest at Park Farm (100 acres of forest to be created).

8) Date and Time of the next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Municipal Buildings on Wednesday 23 October 2013 at 7pm.

The chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.