

**CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Special meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017**

**PRESENT:** Chairman – Cllr L. Little  
 Councillors C. Blades, B. Cherokoff, C. Francis-Pester, J. Geldart, S. Hale, B. Hatch, G. Hill, J. Middleton, J. Norton-Sealey, C. Starr, J. West.  
 Town Clerk - Ms P Heath  
 In attendance Chris Harrison & Jo Mercer- NSC  
 Chief Inspector Tina Robinson & PC Adam Clerk – Avon & Somerset Police

**17/821 RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Fone (family commitment), C. Hall (illness), A. Shopland, D. Shopland (another commitment) G. Watkins (family commitment).  
**RESOLVED:** That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.  
 Apologies were also received from PCC Sue Mountstevens.

**17/822 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Geldart declared a personal interest as funeral celebrant.

*Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that standing orders be suspended to enable the named guests to address the Council.*

**17/823 RECEIVE FROM NSC A REPORT ON THE CURRENT CCTV SYSTEM AND CAMERAS; RECEIVE COSTS OF THE SYSTEM AND ANY UPGRADES; DETAILS OF FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CONTROL ROOM AND SYSTEMS.**

Chris Harrison & Jo Mercer presented a report in response to questions submitted from the Town Council on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The executive member for North Somerset Council Cllr Felicity Baker had also been invited but had not responded to the invite. A copy of the presentation had been circulated to the members at the meeting.

The 9 CCTV cameras are based in and around Queen Square; they assist in detection and deterring crime. There are approximately 79 cameras in North Somerset based in the 4 Towns Portishead, Nailsea Clevedon & Weston. The screens in the control room show the feed from all the cameras and these are monitored. If a call is received the operator can pan the relevant camera and zoom into the incident. Increasingly the cameras are being used to search for missing or vulnerable individuals when all cameras in a specific area are used to find and track the person pending police or social services intervention. The control room is linked via radios. The control room also manages other services on behalf of NSC which helps towards the cost of the operation and staffing of the control room. NSC has requested a cut in the control room budgets, which they hope to achieve by the increase in income rather than reduction of service.

Majority of the cameras are analogue but the better and more adaptable cameras are digital, these can be zoomed in and retain clarity; analogue can only be zoomed in if done manually at the time of recording.

Currently the Town Council pays £14400 toward the running costs of the 9 cameras of that £10866 is the transmission costs paid to BT and £1615 is the camera maintenance costs.

The fee paid by the Town Council is based on the formula agreed in 2014. Total cost of the Control Room split 70 % paid by NSC and 30% by Town Councils, the 30% is then divided by the total number of Cameras (73), with each Town then paying for their number of Cameras. [Roughly 388K total cost, 30% = 116400 /73 = £1595 x 9 Clevedon Cameras = £14355]

**17/824 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET POLICE ON THE RELEVANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CCTV SYSTEM WITHIN THE POLICING OF CLEVEDON; TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF THE FOLLOW ON REPORTS ON THE OUTCOME OF CCTV MONITORING**

Chief Inspector Tina Robinson explained that she was unable to give the detailed information as requested by the Council on 14<sup>th</sup> July as the officer concerned was off sick. To provide the follow on information to the CCTV record as to what was the outcome to any incident requires the cross checking of several systems and other agencies. It would be possible for a short period of time but not as an ongoing process. Chief Inspector Robinson claimed she was not aware of the previous requests relating to providing evidence as to the effectiveness of the CCTV as offered by the PCC Sue Mountstevens.

**17/825 QUESTION THE NAMES GUESTS ON THE INFORMATION THEY PRESENTED**

Chairman invited Councillors to question the guests the following information was given

- There are now 79 cameras in North Somerset being watched by one or two members of staff 24/7
- All Clevedon cameras are being displayed on the screens, as analogue zooming in has to be done manually at the time of the incident; they cannot be adjusted retrospectively; only digital cameras give that ability.
- The type of policing has changed over the last couple of decades with more welfare issues i.e missing and vulnerable people, antisocial behaviour. CCTV assists in detecting or monitoring the incidents till either the police arrive or directing the police to other locations.
- CCTV cameras act as a deterrent, historical data shows that where security cameras don't exist or are removed the crime rate increases compared to areas that have Cameras.
- CCTV cameras save policing time and money, as they can direct officers specifically to a location, can monitor the incident, track people and can reduce court time by providing visual evidence of the incident.
- Additional evidence is required in court other than just CCTV
- The largest cost in CCTV is the transition charges paid to BT. Some cameras in Weston have no transmission costs as they have a direct 'line of sight to' the control room so therefore can use radio waves. It would be possible to have a lower or no transmission costs if the Cameras were changed and new delivery system introduced or a mast placed in Weston Woods giving a 'line of sight' from all Clevedon Cameras.
- Reduction in cost could be achieved if all of the cameras in Nailsea, Portishead, Weston were changed to digital which then changes the delivery signal to a cheaper tariff connection.

- NSC has to date only spoken to Clevedon; they will be talking to the other towns in the near future.
- BT require 3 months' notice of the termination of the transmission line or amendment to run digital cameras. Once the transmission line is disconnected, it cannot be reconnected without additional expense and charge by BT.
- Location of the cameras had been dictated by the technology available at that time. NSC & Police confirmed that the cameras location needs to be reviewed. Details of the 'hotspots' i.e where the cameras would be of practical use could be supplied by the police.
- Each time the public ring in to report an issue it is logged and the location of the issue dictates 'hotspots'.
- Currently some companies have CCTV on or in their building which can be accessed by the Police.

*Proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that standing orders be reinstated*

**17/826 DISCUSS AND VOTE ON THE PROVISION OF CCTV SYSTEM IN CLEVEDON AND AGREE WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTINUE FUNDING THE SYSTEM AS FROM 1ST APRIL 2018.**

Members expressed great concern that despite requesting the information on several occasions and giving both NSC and the Police sufficient notice of the information required they still had not produced the relevant facts and figures.

From NSC members required:-

- 1) The cost of the cameras if they are changed to digital?
- 2) The cost to move or realign the cameras
- 3) Detailed of the different transmission systems and their costs?
- 4) What would be the increase/decrease in cost if all of the cameras were changed or if only some of the cameras were changed?
- 5) Confirmation of any adjustments to be made to the cost formula as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018?
- 6) To provide details of suitable locations for the cameras based on current technology and should the technology be upgraded to digital.
- 7) Details of the outcome of conversations with the other 3 towns.

From Avon & Somerset Police

- 8) Evidence of the use of CCTV cameras in Clevedon in the prosecution of individuals?
- 9) Evidence of the percentage of usage of CCTV images in any court cases?
- 10) Evidence of the use of CCTV in monitoring of incidents with a detailed follow up report based on a specific time frame – 3 months in 2017 using the CCTV monitoring report as a base, showing what happened in each case and what if any use was made of the CCTV images in onwards investigation and resolving of the issue whether in Court or with other statutory bodies such as Social Services?
- 11) Details of 'hotspots' in Clevedon to identify where cameras should be placed?

Members discussed the option of turning off the current cameras, pending an upgrade but accepted that in doing so additional cost would be incurred to reconnect the transmission line.

Proposed, Seconded and **RESOLVED** by 12 votes to 0 that Clevedon Town Council informs North Somerset Council and Avon & Somerset Police that Clevedon Town Council would withdraw from their commitment to CCTV as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 unless answers to question previously raised plus those above on the detailed costing of the system and evidential information of use is provided by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, for an improved system to enable Clevedon Town Council to reconsider its decision. Any queries by North Somerset Council or Avon & Somerset Police regarding the information required should be forwarded by them to Clevedon Town Council immediately.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....DATE.....