

**To receive a report on the Memorial Peace Garden and consider any actions
and associated expenditure**

Cornwall Council's Public Space Officer has advised that he cannot find any evidence of an agreement for Saltash Town Council to carry out any maintenance or installation works at the Memorial Peace Garden, but has acknowledged that the maintenance of the area by Saltash Town Council needs to be formalised and is aware of the work taken place.

Cornwall Council have written clear instructions that they will not be permitting the Town Council to make any more changes to the site.

The following requests were put to Cornwall Council for Saltash Town Council to:

1. Have full ownership of the Memorial Peace Garden at no cost to the Town Council;
2. Saltash Town Council to continue to maintain the site and be the responsible body for future installations on behalf of Cornwall Council as the landowner.

The following response was received:

Cornwall Council's Public Space Officer has discussed a number of similar requests with colleagues, and confirmed that this site is unlikely to be deemed a devolution priority for Cornwall Council. Even if we opted for a lease arrangement this is the same resource in our Property Team that will deal with it, and they simply have too much work on. Please note that any such transfer is likely to involve legal fees, so you may have to be prepared to incur some costs. If this is something that your Saltash TC Members want to pursue please ask Catherine to add it to the devolution programme, but it will inevitably involve a long wait.

In the meantime Cornwall Council could look to put a generic grounds maintenance licence in place – this could be done relatively quickly by one of our estates assistants. However, please note that the site remains in overall responsibility of Cornwall Council. Although we can delegate some responsibilities, to be defined in the terms of the agreement. Both parties are responsible for Public Liability insurance to cover the relevant activities and site features. Ideally small plaques are displayed on items such as benches, signage and structures, to inform the public which organisation to report issues to. Cornwall Council reserve the right to remove anything from the site without notice, if our service provider identifies issues of safety, and they are not made aware of who is responsible. You will have to consult us before making any changes to the site and commit to removing any items that were installed by Saltash TC that we consider of unfit condition before terminating the licence. This latter component will include any feature introduced prior to the licence. If this is acceptable we can get this commissioned, but I will await confirmation before proceeding any further.

As before I would ask that you refrain from making any alterations to the site, until we have an agreement in place.

I have confirmed that Saltash Town Council will make no further alterations to the site and asked for permission for Saltash Town Council to continue to carry out low maintenance works - grass cutting, wedding, flower beds, as we have been doing for several years.

I have asked that a draft generic grounds maintenance licence be worked up to include options to further install items on the site, subject to Saltash TC applying for approval prior to the works taking place.

I am hopefully that a copy of the draft licence will be received for Members consideration at the meeting.

End of Report
Town Clerk