



HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
Konsel an Dre Hellys

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16th March 2017

To: The Mayor and Councillors R Williams, Mrs F N E Boase,
Thomas, Harrison, Potter, P Williams & Rev. Reed

Copy to Members of the Town Council for information

Dear Councillor,

A Meeting of the Amenities Committee will be held in The Guildhall, Helston on **THURSDAY 23RD MARCH 2017 at 7.00 p.m.** for the purpose of transacting the undermentioned business.

Yours faithfully

Chris Dawson
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. At this juncture the Meeting will adjourn for a period of up to fifteen minutes to permit members of the public present to make observations in respect of any items on this Agenda.
4. To approve and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th January 2017 (**Page 3**).
5. Matters Arising from the 26th January 2017 Minutes (for information exchange only).
6. To receive an update on National Trust activities.

PTO

7. To consider the report of the Town Warden (**Page 7**).

8. Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Council is invited to pass the following resolution:-

“That pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960 the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.”

9. To consider a report by the Town Clerk containing tender returns and quotations (**Page 9**):

- a) Flora Day Security
- b) Flora Day Portaloos
- c) Flora Day Generator Hire
- d) Hanging Baskets
- e) Weed-spraying
- f) Royal Portraits
- g) Asset Tags

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY 2017 AT 7.00PM

Councillors: Mrs F N E Boase in the Chair

R Williams
M H Thomas

Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor)
D J Potter

P E Williams
Rev D P Reed

Officers: Mr C Dawson – Town Clerk
Mr C M Bowcutt – Town Warden
Miss R Cook – Administrative Assistant (observing)

349. Apologies

The Town Clerk advised that an apology for non-attendance had been submitted by Councillor Harrison.

350. Minutes

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor P E Williams, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th November 2017 be approved and signed as a true record.

351. Matters Arising

Referring to Min. No.270/2016 the Town Clerk advised that the target crowd-funding sum had been achieved by the member of the public. He further advised that he would appoint the security company upon receipt of the funds.

352. Report of the Town Warden

Members considered the report of the Town Warden circulated prior to the meeting.

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor P E Williams, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

353. Flora Day Road Closure

The Mayor advised that she had requested the decision to not close the Porthleven Road on Flora Day be reconsidered because she had been contacted by several members of the public who felt the road should continue to be closed. She reminded Members that the Road Closure application was not expensive but the security was the largest expense. The Town Clerk confirmed that the security for that road alone in 2016 was £800. The Mayor then suggested crowd-funding as a means of financing the closure as the Council had withdrawn the budget for 2017/18. The Town Clerk reminded the Committee that if Cornwall Council granted the Fair a license to operate from the car park and it considered it necessary to close the road then Members had considered it should be the responsibility of Cornwall Council to organise.

Councillor Potter was of the opinion that the decision to close the road should be made first and the funding worked out later.

Councillor R Williams stated that no price could be put on a life and public safety was paramount.

Councillor Reverend Reed said he could not imagine the public getting to the fair without the road being closed.

Councillor Thomas reminded Members that the original decision to withdraw the Flora Day market from the Porthleven Road was due to the difficulties of attracting traders as they could not leave until midnight when the Fair closed and therefore the best use of public money was to not close the road. However, on reflection he was of the opinion that the road should be closed in 2017 and volunteers sought to assist the Town Warden on the day.

The Town Clerk read two letters from Cornwall Councillor Wallis in which he objected to the non-closure but advised that Cornwall Council could not contribute to the expenses. He further advised that Cornwall Council received £1,900 from the Fair but this was used to maintain the car park surface and helped to keep it free of charges, however, he was pursuing the Fair operators for a contribution.

At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Potter, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the Porthleven Road be closed for Flora Day 2017 and, if required, funded from General Reserves; and
- b) the Town Warden take photographs of the area at regular intervals during the day.

Councillor P E Williams was of the opinion that the Fair operators should be strongly pursued for a contribution.

The Town Warden advised that First Aid cover had withdrawn at approximately 6.30pm in the past and he had had to administer first aid himself. It was agreed to include Flora Day safety as an agenda item for the following meeting.

354. Helston Pubwatch

Councillor Thomas advised that the Town Council had limited involvement with the town’s Public Houses and licensing and asked the Town Warden to explain the purpose of Pubwatch as he attended the meetings.

The Town Warden informed the Committee that the majority of matters discussed at Pubwatch meetings were confidential. He further advised that it was no longer compulsory for landlords to attend the meetings but, in response to a question, he informed Members that about ninety percent in Helston did attend and it was considered one of the best such forums in Cornwall. He then advised Members of the national Pubwatch website that contained general information.

Councillor Thomas thanked the Town Warden for his input and clarified that he had no desire to change anything but rather convey the Town Council’s support.

355. Guildhall Room Hire

Further to Min. No.272/2016, Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated).

Councillor Potter was of the opinion that the Council should only charge for commercial activities. Councillor R Williams stated that there had been numerous debates in the past regarding various hire charges for different organisations but these had calmed down in recent years with the clarity that all organisations pay and charities accepted a modest charge.

Following the debate it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by the Chair, and

RESOLVED – that the Flora Day Association, Helston & District Town Twinning Association and the Helston Downsland Trust are not charged for Guildhall room hire.

356. Emergency Plan

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk, circulated prior to the meeting, that contained Notes of a meeting held with the Community Flood Resilience Manager.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Community Flood Resilience Manager had recommended drafting an Emergency Plan for the St Johns area in the first instance and then bolt on other areas at a later date. The Town Clerk also advised Members that he had volunteered to assist with a Cornwall Council project for Business Continuity Planning.

On the proposition of Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor P E Williams, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that Councillors R Williams, P E Williams and Grattan-Kane with the Town Clerk form the Emergency Plan Working Party.

357. Commemoration Beacon

The Committee considered an invitation to participate in a national lighting of beacons event on 11th November 2018 to commemorate the end of World War One. The Town Clerk read an email from the Helston WW1 Heritage Project in support of the town participating.

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by the Chair, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council participate in the ‘Battle’s Over’ beacon lighting on 11th November 2018 and the Town Clerk investigate potential locations and costs.

358. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Potter, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

359. Cleaning of Public Conveniences

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk, previously circulated, containing tenders for the cleaning of public conveniences for the 3-year period April 2017 to March 2020.

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the tender from Cormac Solutions Limited be accepted.

Meeting closed at 8.16pm

Confirmed
DRAFT
Chair

Town Warden Report
January to March 2017

1. Litter / Waste Update

In general, the town centre has been a lot quieter than normal after the Christmas period, this is reflected on the rubbish and litter being found on the morning cleans. Biffa Waste Services has taken over Cory Environmental and their operatives are reporting a general downturn in rubbish collected. The main items collected are still to do with the food and drink industry with fast food boxes and broken bottles and glasses being the main offending items in the town centre. With the birds starting to nest soon and the lighter mornings, we will need to get the message out once again about covering up unprotected bags but it is pleasing to note the uptake of the seagull-proof sacks visible on a Wednesday morning in most locations.

In our play areas and green spaces it has still been steady with relatively mild weather allowing younger residents to play throughout the normally colder months. Collections on a Monday are still averaging one and half bags to three bags with very much smaller quantities being picked up on the Thursday / Friday collection. In general our green spaces have been a lot quieter with Trengrouse Amenity Garden being a lot better than normal. It will be interesting to see how it goes without the nearby shop having any influence, but I do also thank the Friends Group that has been looking after the area as well. We have had to seal the bins that are attached to the now closed store as they are not being emptied and were overflowing into the car park.

There have been a number of fly-tips reported in this period ranging from old fencing and soil to household items. Fly-tips have been in the Gays Hill, Bulwark, Cunnack Close and Porthleven Road areas. Most have been dealt with and Community Protection Officers / Social Landlords have been made aware of the others.

2. Fixed Penalty Notice update

I recently attended an update on the new laws and regulations being brought in by the Government and Cornwall Council this year. I have given the Town Clerk a brief note on how it will affect us as a council. A number of things have changed and the full extent of these will be rolled out over this coming year.

3. Weed Spraying

The first of this years weed sprays will take place during week commencing 20th March. This was after we discussed a concession to allow weed spraying after Cornwall Council effectively withdrew its permission to use glyphosates on any Cornwall Council run land. This Concession will allow Cornwall Council to propose a cost effective alternative to the most commonly used weed killer used in the country. But I do expect alternatives to double our current expenditure in the future and may also require further equipment and training.

The second spray of the year will be around the end of August and beginning of September.

4. Maintenance

We have undertaken a number of repairs and refurbishments of assets in our play areas over the past few weeks. A number of items needed some minor work undertaken, ranging from replacement chains to protective caps being fitted. New signage has also been placed in our play areas.

The fencing at the Hellis Wartha play area has been replaced with railings and is just waiting a few minor snags to be rectified. The contractor is aware and is waiting for spares to arrive.

Working with Cormac, we have been listing potholes that need to be repaired especially with Flora Day getting close. A number of potholes have been filled already and they are starting on some of the manhole covers that also require attention around 20th March. Some covers have to be fabricated due to sizes no longer being available and this may delay some repairs being completed.

The signage on the van has been updated with the new web site address.

A generator, large water tank and pressure washer has arrived mostly funded by the Helston & the Lizard Works Project. The generator will provide remote power for the pressure washer as well as maintenance tasks and emergency back-up. The water tank will provide water for the pressure washer as well as a good supply for weed spraying operations. Unfortunately due to the size and weight of these items it is a two man operation to load and unload this equipment.

There has been a number of issues with the Guildhall toilets; leaks and flushing mechanism break downs are the most common faults. Failure of the mechanisms is harder to deal with as there are very few spares available so they may require complete replacement at some point.

5. Meetings / Events

I have attended meetings with the Youth Offending Team and a meeting of Pub Watch.

14th March 2017

**Craig Bowcutt
Town Warden**