

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 21st JUNE 2018 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: T E Grattan-Kane (Deputy Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
R J L Boase
Mrs F N E Boase

M H Thomas
Mrs N Roberts
D J Potter

Rev. D P Reed
R F Edgcumbe
M J Kenchington

Officers: Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Mr M Searle (Projects Officer)

39. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Councillor Reverend Reed.

40. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillor J Martin (Town Mayor) and Councillor Mrs Geer.

41. Requests for Dispensations

The Town Clerk advised that Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase had each submitted two dispensation requests.

It was proposed by Councillor Reverend Reed seconded by Councillor Mrs Roberts, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council awarded Councillor R J L Boase and Councillor Mrs Boase dispensations for the civic year to remain in meetings, participate in debates and vote on matters relating to Helston Harvest Fair and the South Kerrier Heritage Trust.

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase abstained from the vote.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that dispensations for the previous civic year had expired and new applications had to be submitted for consideration by the Full Council.

42. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

The Town Clerk read a report from Cornwall Councillor Martin. In the report Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that he had received complaints regarding speeding traffic in the town and, with Cornwall Councillor Thomas, was pursuing ‘Speed Watch’ training for some volunteers in Helston and the Lizard. Cornwall Councillor Martin also made reference to the litter on and around household waste collection day suggesting that the use of seagull-proof sacks was further promoted. Cornwall Councillor Martin’s report also made reference to a meeting with Helston’s taxi operators and the consultation on the Boundary Commission’s Electoral Review proposals.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that on a visit to the Cornwall Council call centre at Dolcoath he been impressed with the quality of service provided by the officers receiving enquiries from the public. They dealt with a range of issues in a caring way.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas also referred to the Boundary Commission's Electoral Review and was of the opinion that Cornwall Council had in the main been granted what it had requested. In relation to Helston, the Helston North Division was all within the Helston parish, however the Helston South Division included a large rural area with rural parishes.

43. Public Participation

A member of the public spoke on behalf of residents of Sea View Terrace and lower Church Hill. She questioned why the new parking restrictions had been imposed on Church Hill. The Town Clerk responded advising that it was in response to safety concerns received from residents of Church Hill whose line of sight when driving out of their properties was constantly restricted by parked vehicles. The member of the public advised that the restrictions had caused a knock-on issue around Parc Eglos school and caused hardship to the families living in Sea View Terrace and the lower end of Church Hill and was of the opinion that the 7.00am commencement and all day Saturday was unreasonable. The Town Clerk advised that the previous parking concerns were caused by all day parking and not just school drop-off and pick-up times. Councillor Thomas added that he had consulted Parc Eglos School and they had no objections to the Traffic Regulation Order. A resident advised that he could no longer park near his house which caused him problems taking items in and out.

Another member of the public enquired why the yellow zig-zag lines had been extended outside Parc Eglos School. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had not been consulted on the proposals and a member of the Press informed the meeting that this was a county-wide scheme involving many schools.

A further member of the public questioned why the approaches to the town were so untidy and not cut adding that some footpaths were becoming impassable. The Town Clerk responded advising that it was Cormac's responsibility to cut the verges but the Town Council had tasked him with producing a report, including estimated costs that would have to be added to the Precept, to consider taking over the responsibility for grass cutting.

Councillor Reverend Reed stated that it was important that the public report issues, such as overgrown footpaths, to the Town Clerk's office.

44. Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Thomas, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 15th May and 17th May 2018 be approved and signed as a true record.

Councillor Kenchington abstained from the vote as he had not been present at those meetings.

45. Matters Arising

Referring to Min. No.13(2)/2018, the Town Clerk advised that an informal meeting had been arranged with the Newton Abbot CIC Manager and Town Clerk for Tuesday 31st July 2018 commencing at 6.00pm.

46. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 17th May and 7th June 2018, be received.

47. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 24th May 2018, be received.

48. Announcements

The Town Clerk advised that interviews for the part-time Administrative Assistant post had taken place on 30th May 2018. Miss Katie Lyle had been appointed and commenced on 1st June. Since her appointment, Miss Lyle had become Mrs Best.

The Town Clerk then read announcements on behalf of the Mayor including reference to the Carn Brea Morris 40th Anniversary event that took place the previous Sunday in Coinagehall Street and that talks were in progress to establish an annual Folk Festival weekend with music, dance and theatre in Helston.

49. Helston Community Hospital

Councillor Thomas advised that he had requested this agenda item following the reported bed closures due to GP cover being withdrawn. He further advised that he had requested an update from the Trust and the Deputy Mayor had attended a meeting.

The Deputy Mayor informed Members that he had met with Dr Anderson – member of the Management Team who was personally helping to deliver clinical care at the hospital. She had made assurances that there was no intention to either close the hospital or to close beds. She had further informed the Deputy Mayor that she had been approached by doctors prepared to work from the hospital resulting in 9am – 5pm cover 5 days per week from September.

50. Seagull-proof Sacks

Councillor R J L Boase spoke in support of his Motion to provide seagull-proof sacks at a reduced rate to residents that could not accommodate a dustbin or wheelie bin. Councillor R J L Boase advised that some traders were putting waste out for the household waste collection and that black sacks were being ripped open by seagulls with waste entering the kennel system. He summed up by stating that further educating of the public was required.

The Town Clerk informed Members that Cornwall Council's Compliance Officers had been working with the Town Warden and monitoring the town centre over the last two waste collection days, letter-dropping properties where littering problems occurred. As a result of this and other publicity, the Town Clerk's office had sold 27 seagull-proof sacks in three weeks. He then advised that persistent offenders would be contacted by a Cornwall Council Environmental Enforcement Officer.

A detailed discussion ensued during which the Town Clerk advised that his Administrative Assistant had volunteered to sell seagull-proof sacks at the Farmer's Market on 7th July. Councillors Kenchington and Mrs Roberts then volunteered to sell the sacks at the town's supermarkets if permission could be obtained.

Councillor Reverend Reed was of the opinion that the work of the Compliance Officer should not be undermined by the Town Council also targeting problem areas. The proposer and seconder withdrew the Motion and the Town Clerk agreed to letter-drop the town centre dwellings with information on the availability of seagull-proof sacks.

Councillor Thomas advised that he had emailed the Cornwall Council portfolio holder to request that the seagull-proof sacks be made available from the Information Centre at the Helston Library.

Councillor Williams left the meeting at 7.45pm.

51. Report of the Projects Officer

The Projects Officer advised that the Monument shelter installers had returned to complete the guttering and other finishing items. Monument Walk was now very well equipped for events.

A further meeting of the Heritage Trail group had been arranged for 28th June to review the first draft of the text. Various costs were being confirmed so the trail would be in place within a few weeks.

The Projects Officer then confirmed that he was continuing to chase Cornwall Council for a refreshed estimate to lay a section of granite pavement.

In response to a question, the Projects Officer stated he would put the suggestion of translating the Heritage Trail text into Cornish to the managing group.

52. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO)

It was agreed that the Mayor and Councillors R J L Boase, Thomas, Potter and Grattan-Kane form the Traffic Regulation Orders Working Party.

(2) CALC Training Programme

This item was noted.

(3) Christmas Office Closure

It was proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council offices close from 4pm on Friday 21st December 2018 and re-open on Wednesday 2nd January 2019.

53. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Mrs Roberts, it was

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 139-154 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £44,517.37.

54. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, 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 items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

55. Confidential Report of the Town Clerk

i) Proceeds of the Sale of 3 Penrose Road

Members considered a confidential report by the Town Clerk (circulated prior to the meeting). Following the discussion it was agreed that this item be deferred to await further correspondence from Derek Thomas MP.

Councillor Williams re-entered the meeting at 8.47pm.

ii) St Michael's Churchyard – Grounds Maintenance

Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council take over the grounds maintenance of St Michael's Churchyard and the Town Clerk sign the Service Level Agreement with Cornwall Council.

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase abstained from the vote.

Meeting closed at 8.56pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor