

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING OF HELSTON
HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL,
COINAGEHALL STREET, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 14TH APRIL 2011 AT 7.00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Councillor R J L Boase (Town Mayor) in the Chair

Helston Town Councillors:

R Williams	Mrs V J Matthew	J P Radford-Gaby
Mrs S M E Swift	Mrs F N E Boase	Mrs W A Radford-Gaby
N J C Devenish	R R Pryor	
K Reynolds	M H Thomas	

Cornwall Councillors:

Mrs J Haycock	A Robertson
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Residents:

Mr K Matthew	P K C Parsons
Mr R Clotworthy	S Stewart
Ms V J Filbey	Mr J Mitchell
Mr M Jay	Mr M Atkins

Representatives of Organisations:

Ms S Collington – Carleen Church Community Care Centre	Mr K Stringer – Phoenix Mentoring Project
Ms C Dempsey – Carleen Church Community Care Centre	Mr B Deacon – Sithney Cornish Wrestling Association
Ms E Johns – Gorsedh Kernow	Mr J Hayworth – Trengrouse Way Area Residents Association
Mrs E Angove – Helston Age Concern	Mr J Ferguson – Trengrouse Way Area Residents Association
Mr I Perry – Helston Age Concern	Mr P Eddy – Trengrouse Way Area Residents Association
Flt. Lt. Bowcutt – Helston Air Cadets	
Mr P Martin – National Coastwatch Institution (Bass Point)	
Mr S Palmer – One and All Judo Club	
Mrs K Harvey – Phoenix Mentoring Project	

In Attendance:

Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)
Mrs S Price (Administrative Assistant)

1. MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Pryor, and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on 8th April 2010 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor presented a resume of the affairs of the town during the preceding twelve months and made special reference to:

- (a) the Town Council's re-accreditation for Quality Status and thanked the Town Clerk, Miss Lavelle and Mrs Price for their hard work;
- (b) the opening of the two supermarkets providing much needed employment and releasing the Section 106 money which was funding the Town Centre Manager's post and also included some funding for public realm works;
- (c) the work of the Town Centre Manager who had introduced himself to the majority of businesses in the town and was beginning to develop a Town Centre Business Plan;
- (d) the South Kerrier Alliance's successful bid for £1.7m of funding for the new community building on the former Cattle Market site, offering the Town Council's congratulations;
- (e) the drafting of the Town Plan which was continuing with small councillor Focus Groups investigating the different issues in greater detail and advised that further public consultation would be carried out in the near future;
- (f) the successful winning bid of £50,000 when the young persons café was top runner-up in the People's Millions public vote offering his congratulations to the Community Network Manager and the youth café team;
- (g) the organisations supported with grants by the Town Council;
- (h) the work of the Keep Helston Tidy Working Party organising a litter pick for Clean Cornwall Week in addition to the Pre-Flora Day Litter Pick and thanked the volunteers who had participated in the events; and
- (i) the Continental Markets held in September and April to bring an increased footfall into the town thanking the Town Council's staff for their hard work.

3. CHARITY ACCOUNTS: TREVENEN EXHIBITION

The Town Clerk reported details of the Accounts of the Trevenen Exhibition Charity which showed balances on the 31st March 2011 of £4,251.94 representing £3,158.73 in shares currently held and £1,093.21 in the Charity's Abbey National bank account.

Mr Peter O'Brian was the recipient of the Trevenen Exhibition Award and had been sent his final payment. The Town Clerk advised that Mr O'Brian was expected to achieve a first class honours degree. The Town Clerk advised that the Trustees of the Trevenen Exhibition would be appointing a new candidate in the near future.

4. REPORT ON THE DOWNSLAND TRUST

Councillor Reynolds, Chairman of the Downsland Trust, gave a detailed report on the activities of the Downsland Trust and made particular mention to the improvements to Meneage Green thanking his fellow Trustees for their support. Councillor Reynolds advised that the Downsland Trust had given grants to a number of groups which included the Phoenix Project, Helston Guides, and Swallows Gym.

5. TOWN AFFAIRS

Ms V Filbey expressed concern that the public toilets at the rear of the Guildhall and Trengrouse Way were not opened on Sundays and also advised that the public toilets at the rear of the Guildhall were poorly signed. The Town Clerk advised that the public conveniences were the responsibility of Cornwall Council and confirmed that he would write to Cornwall Council regarding the issue.

Mr J Hayworth expressed the opinion that the public toilets should remain open until late in the evening on Flora Day. The Town Clerk advised that he had written to Cornwall Council two weeks previously to ask that the public conveniences remain open and cleaned throughout the day.

Mr R Clotworthy expressed his pleasure with the improvements being carried out by the South Kerrier Alliance and the Downsland Trust. Mr Clotworthy then queried how long it would be before the improvements from Section 106 funding would be carried out. The Town Clerk advised that he had met with the Planning Officer from Cornwall Council regarding the Town Councils' request for a proportion of the Section 106 funding for maintenance of the Kennels and White Wash Walls in addition to the project for Horse & Jockey Lane. The Town Clerk then confirmed that the Planning Officer was contacting the two supermarkets for their agreement to the modifications to the Section 106 Agreement.

Mr Clotworthy then expressed concerns regarding the condition of the Bowling Green Steps advising that the steps and hand rail were in need of maintenance. The Town Clerk advised that the footpath was the responsibility of Cornwall Council and confirmed that he would write to them regarding the issue. Mr Clotworthy also expressed the opinion that the Town bins were a disgrace. The Town Clerk advised that the bins were cleaned regularly but confirmed that he would review the frequency of the cleaning.

Mr Clotworthy advised that Camborne Town Council employed an odd job person who carried out work around the town and suggested that a similar post could be beneficial for Helston. Mr Clotworthy then queried the amount of money spent on repairs at the Guildhall. The Town Clerk advised that he could supply Mr Clotworthy with figures if he came to the office.

Mr I Perry advised that he had received complaints regarding the condition of the public toilets and the lack of disabled toilets as not everybody had a radar key. The Mayor advised that all disabled persons could apply for a radar key free of charge to gain access to the disabled toilets.

Mr Perry then expressed concern that there would not be sufficient disabled parking at the new Community Building on the site of the former Cattle Market. He also raised concerns regarding the crossing on the Porthleven Road advising that he was of the opinion that an earlier warning for the 30mph speed limit was required. The Town Clerk advised that he would make the Cornwall Council Local Division Member aware of the concerns.

Mr Perry advised that whilst the water had been stopped in the Kennels to allow the weeds to be sprayed sufficient time had not been allowed before the water had been turned back on. The Mayor advised that the kennels had not been turned on but the water was natural run off from the roads.

Councillor Reynolds requested an update on Active Partnering and the Town Plan. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council was waiting for information regarding Active Partnering from Cornwall Council. The Town Clerk further advised that the Town Plan Questionnaire was not yet ready for distribution as not all the questions had been received.

Mr I Perry requested an update on a bus shelter in Coinagehall Street. The Town Clerk advised that he had met with the Conservation Officer who would not accept a standard design and had drawn a design that he would accept. The Town Clerk further advised that a similar style bus shelter was available at a cost of £18,000 which the Town Council could only provide if the public were willing to pay a higher precept.

Mr M Jay requested that the Council explained their intentions with the Passmore Edwards building as he had seen several legal documents and believed it would be difficult for the Council to sell the building. Mr Jay further advised that he had seen a white van taking fixtures and fittings out of the building which he understood belonged to the people of Helston. The Mayor advised that the Council intended to sell the building at the best price achievable and confirmed that the fixtures and fittings were removed by the Helston & District Community Association as it was their property. Mr Jay queried if the Council had legal ownership of the building. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council had investigated the issue and advised that the Council could sell the building and re-invest a portion of the money for scientific and technical instruction. Mr Jay queried when the building would be for sale. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council wanted to obtain the best price and was investigating whether planning permission should to be sought prior to sale.

Mr J Mitchell queried if the Council was aware of the condition of the white wash wall in Meneage Road. The Town Clerk advised that the problem was caused by water in the wall and the contractor was looking at all the walls which needed to be stripped back and allowed to dry before they were repaired. Mr Mitchell advised that the wall in St. Johns was in a particularly poor condition. The Town Clerk advised that the Council were attempting to obtain a portion of the Section 106 money to carry out maintenance of the white wash walls and confirmed that the Town Council had been proactive as the walls were owned by Cornwall Council who had abandoned maintenance several years previously.

Mr M Jay advised that the economy was very important to the town with many shops closing and expressed his surprise that there was no report from the Town Centre Manager. The Mayor advised that the Town Centre Manager submitted a report to the Town Council at Full Council meetings and that members of the public were welcome to attend to hear what was said. The Town Centre Manager advised that he would not make a presentation as he had only been employed for six weeks and it would be presumptive until he had carried out more research. The Town Centre Manager further advised that he would be drafting a business plan and in response to a question confirmed that Helston was slightly below the national average for empty shops.

Mr Clotworthy queried if it would be beneficial for Helston Town Council to publish details of its expenditure in detail. The Town Clerk advised that the expenditure was currently included on the end of the Minutes.

Ms V Filbey advised that she understood the Police were no longer dealing with problems after hours and the public were being referred to the Town Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that this was not the case and the public should continue to ring 999 in cases of emergency.

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS

Presentations were made by the following organisations that had received financial support from the Town Council over the past year:

- Bass Point Watch Station
- Carleen Church Community Care Centre
- Cornwall Blind Association
- Gorsedh Kernow
- Helston Age Concern
- Helston ATC
- Phoenix Mentoring Project
- One & All Judo Club
- Sithney Cornish Wrestling Club
- Trengrouse Way Area Residents Association

7. PRESENTATION BY SOUTH KERRIER ALLIANCE

Mr D Turnbull, a Director of the South Kerrier Alliance, gave a presentation on the new building under construction on the Cattle Market site. Mr Turnbull advised that the architecture of the building had been designed to be similar to the Cafe and explained the layout showing an artist's impression of the completed building. Mr Turnbull further advised that the South Kerrier Alliance had obtained £1,876,568 of funding of which only £359,147 was a loan. Mr Turnbull confirmed that work had started on site at the end of March with construction due to commence on 16th May 2011 with the first Farmers Market expected to be held on 7th April 2012. Mr Turnbull then responded to questions from members of the public.

The Meeting closed at 9.12pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor