

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY
ON THURSDAY 18TH MARCH 2021 AT 6.30 PM

Councillors: J Martin (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
R J L Boase
Mrs F N E Boase

M H Thomas
Mrs G A Geer
Mrs N Roberts

D P Reed
R F Edgcumbe
M J Kenchington

Officers: Miss P J Lavelle (Town Clerk)
Miss A D Retallack (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr M Searle (Projects Officer)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor welcomed representatives from the Museum of Cornish Life. Councillor Thomas thanked them for their work to develop the Helston Kennels & Leats Virtual Exhibition advising that the launch was only the beginning of the project and encouraged others to come forward with their contributions. The Museum Director and the Trainee Curator expressed their pleasure at being involved in the project and then launched the exhibition.

255. Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Grattan-Kane. An apology for late attendance was received from Councillor Edgcumbe.

256. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Thomas referred to Helston's success in obtaining funding from the Cornwall Council Revitalising the High Street Fund and congratulated all those involved. He then advised that he had been involved in a number of casework issues including a potential trading licence for a catering vehicle in station road which had since been withdrawn. Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he had also been working with the Projects Officer on the virtual exhibition for the Wendron Leats and Helston Kennels and had met with the Highways Manager regarding outstanding works. Cornwall Councillor Thomas confirmed that he had attended all his scheduled meetings and the final Full Council meeting was taking place the following week. He advised that the pre-election period (Purdah) would commence the following Monday which would reduce contact with officers but confirmed the normal work of a Councillor was not affected.

Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that he was seconding the Motion to support the shellfish industry which was being considered at the following weeks Full Council meeting. He further advised that, despite purdah, work was continuing with both the Licencing and Planning Committee's being very busy.

Councillor Edgcumbe entered the meeting at 6.39pm

The Town Clerk confirmed that no report had been received from Cornwall Councillor Wallis. Councillor R J L Boase requested that an invite for the April Full Council meeting be sent to Cornwall Councillor Wallis.

257. Public Participation

A representative of the Helston Climate Action Group thanked Councillor Edgcombe for his support but confirmed that they had managed to secure a venue for the Community Larder and they would be issuing a press release the next few days. She then thanked Councillor Kenchington for his proposal to produce a plan for carbon reduction and advised that she was meeting regularly with the Carbon Neutral Team at Cornwall Council who were working to downscale the route map to a local level. She then thanked the Town Clerk for including the CEE Bill on her Town Clerk's Report, briefly outlining the purpose of the bill and various organisations which were supporting its introduction asking Members to show their support in asking the MP to support the bill.

A representative of the Helston Climate Action Group expressed concern with the Downsland Trusts decision to sell of land near Hospital Cross advising that not everyone in Helston was in favour. He advised that Helston Town Council had declared a climate emergency and many people had concerns and they had no one to turn to as all Councillors were Trustee's. The Mayor advised that the item wasn't an issue for discussion by Council but the individual Trustees could provide a response. Councillor Thomas advised that Cornwall Council would be making the planning decision regarding any proposals and they could be contacted by anyone with concerns as part of the planning process.

Councillor Thomas left the meeting at 7.08pm due to technical difficulties.

Councillor Williams advised that people were missing the ability to attend physical meetings and advised that he had been contacted by a number of residents who were concerned with the condition of the town. He advised that he was aware that many of the issues were the responsibility of other organisations but expressed the opinion that as the representative of the public it was Members duty to raise issues of concern on their behalf. Councillor Reverend Reed advised that he had cause to report a broken paving slab and Cornwall Council had rapidly fixed it. The Mayor advised that he was requesting the resurfacing of Meneage Street.

Councillor Thomas entered the meeting at 7.11pm.

258. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th February 2021 be approved and signed as a true record.

259. Matters Arising

Councillor Mrs Geer requested that a warning be given when a date was known for the loss of a parking facility in the Drill Hall Yard.

260. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4th March 2021, be received.

261. Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 9th March 2021, be received.

262. Announcements

The Mayor advised that the Helston and District Town Twinning Association had recently held online events with Sasso and Plougasnou which were well received. Councillor Thomas advised that the Twinning Association wished to energise the connection with Port Augusta.

263. St. Pirans Day

Councillor Mrs Geer suggested that Helston should hold a large event the following year to commemorate St Piran's Day and if this was to be achieved the organisation would need to commence immediately. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by the Mayor, and

RESOLVED – that the Council hold an event for St. Piran's Day 2022 and an Events Working Party reporting to the Amenities Committee be formed in May to develop the event.

264. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Councillor Mrs Geer expressed the opinion that the town should hold a significant event for the Jubilee the following year and that the Town Council should be leading the celebrations. Following a brief debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and

RESOLVED – that the Events Working Party also develop an event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

265. Carbon Footprint Reduction

Councillor Kenchington expressed the opinion that the Council should identify the level of carbon produced by Helston Town Council and develop an action plan providing targets for the reduction of carbon emissions. A detailed debate ensued during which it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, and

RESOLVED – that Standing Order 1.14 be suspended to allow a member of the public to speak.

A representative from the Helston Climate Action Group (HCAG) confirmed that the tool produced by the University of Exeter gave a good indication of the footprint for the parish but not an individual organisation. She then expressed the hope that the Council could carry out the activity to set targets for the town as a whole as they had declared a climate emergency on behalf of the town.

Councillor Kenchington expressed the opinion that the Council needed to lead the way by example initially.

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Order 1.14 be resumed.

It was then proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council agreed to the production of a report by the June 2021 Full Council meeting to identify the level of carbon produced by Helston Town Council, using an appropriate Carbon Footprint Tool. Following the production of the Carbon Footprint Report the Council also commits to the production and publication of an Action Plan by October 2021 containing clearly defined, measurable and monitored reduction targets for carbon emissions in line with the Helston Town Council’s commitment to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.

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

RESOLVED – that a Carbon Footprint Reduction Working Party be formed to produce the report and develop the action plan.

The Mayor and Councillors Mrs Boase, Kenchington and Reverend Reed volunteered to be part of the Carbon Footprint Reduction Working Party.

266. Accommodation for the HCAG Community Larder Project

This item was no longer required as the Community Larder had secured a venue.

267. Report of the Projects Officer

The Projects Officer updated Members on his report (circulated prior to the meeting) including:

- Town Vitality Funding – The bid had been successful and Cornwall Council were in the process of producing the grant offer letter.
- Reopening High Streets Safely Phase 2 – Both wall mounted hand sanitisers had been damaged and he was seeking additional funding for more durable replacements.
- Helston Cultural Quarter – The provision of community toilets within a variety of facilities could be useful for the town. In response to a question the Projects Officer confirmed that he would seek further information from other schemes on how abuse of the facilities was dealt with.
- Wendron Leats and Helston Kennels – He thanked the representatives of the Museum of Cornish Life for their support with the kennels exhibition which had gone live and he was looking forward to further contributions.
- Helston Energy Scoping Study – The scoping study was proceeding and more detail would become available. If the project was a good prospect the Council would need to consider preparing a new Rural Community Energy Funding Bid.

In respect of the Helston Cultural Quarter project it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Geer, and

RESOLVED – that the Council committed to exploring the potential for a community toilet scheme in Helston and that facilities available in locally owned businesses should be assessed as the initial priority.

In respect of the Monument Walk charging structure for events (not markets) it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) power charges should not be imposed on top of the previously agreed hire charges;
- b) use of power should be monitored to inform future reviews of the tariff; and
- c) the Council offered a 20% discount for bookings during the first 12 months.

It had been proposed by Councillor Edgcombe, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed that a 50% discount be offered for the first booking. This Motion failed.

268. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill

On the proposition of the Mayor , seconded by Councillor Kenchington, it was

RESOLVED – that the Council sign the open letter supporting the introduction of the CEE Bill produced by The Climate and Ecological Emergency Alliance – West Cornwall.

(2) Helston Climate Action Group - Insurance

It was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and

RESOLVED – that a grant of £208 from the Carbon Footprint Reduction Project be awarded to the Helston Climate Action Group to cover the cost of their annual insurance.

Members agreed that this grant be processed as an urgent payment.

(3) Policing and Security for the G7 Leaders' Summit

This item was noted.

(4) Pre-Election Arrangements

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

RESOLVED – that the Agenda for the April Full Council meeting be amended to comply with restrictions for the pre-election period.

(5) New Councillor Training

This item was noted.

(6) Virtual Meetings

This item was noted.

(7) Local Council Awards Scheme

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

RESOLVED – that the Council apply for re-accreditation to the NALC Local Council Awards Scheme for the Quality Gold Council Level.

(8) Freedom Parade

This item was noted.

269. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 696-754 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £49,489.70.

270. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Mrs Roberts, 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.

271. CCTV Monitoring

Members considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (circulated prior to the meeting). It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and

RESOLVED – that the Council extend the CCTV Monitoring contract for a period of 8 years.

272. Proceeds of Sale of 3 Penrose Road

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

RESOLVED – that the Council pursue every opportunity to free up the proceeds of Sale of 3 Penrose Road.

Meeting closed at 7.56pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor