

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.00 P.M.

Councillors: Councillor N J C Devenish (Town Mayor) in the Chair

Mrs S M E Swift
K Reynolds
Mrs V J Matthew

Mrs F N E Boase
R R Pryor

M H Thomas
J P Radford-Gaby

Officers: Mr C Dawson - Town Clerk

338. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillor Williams who was working, Councillor Phillips whose wife was unwell, Councillor R J L Boase and Councillor D C Swift both working.

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

RESOLVED – that the apologies be accepted.

339. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Swift declared a personal interest as the Chair of the 50+ Forum and her recent appointment as champion for older people for the south west.

340. Town Plan

Members of the eight Focus Groups reported on their meetings as follows:-

i) Environment and Heritage

Councillor Mrs Matthew advised that the Group had divided the public consultation comments into four sub headings:-

- Keeping Helston Clean and Tidy
- Conservation of Heritage
- Carbon Footprint and Energy Efficiency
- Healthy Environment

Some comments attributed to this main heading were re-distributed to other more appropriate Focus Groups.

Councillor Radford-Gaby then advised that a list of potential consultants had been contacted and all appeared interested in contributing.

ii) Local Economy and Transport

The Mayor informed Members that this Group had looked at the consultation responses and compiled a list of priorities that achieved the majority of aims:-

- Improve the A393 Redruth Road as the first priority, followed by the A394 Falmouth Road second, and A394 Penzance Road third;
- Reinstate some of the rail link or provide a mono rail to improve access to the A30 Trunk Road and help eliminate carbon footprint;
- Look to a Town Centre Manager to drive town centre initiatives forward and introduce events to promote the town, eg continental & local street markets, and better communications with local businesses through a business forum;
- Press the Regional Development Agency to develop the Business Park on Clodgey Lane and to provide small start-up business units.

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that she had attended an excellent session at the recent NALC Conference about ‘Looking after your town centre in a recession’ and would be providing Members with details.

Councillor Mrs Boase left the meeting at 7.20pm

iii) Community Facilities

Councillor Mrs Matthew informed Members that the Group had formulated a ‘wish list’ that included:-

- A modern Community Centre
- Re-developed former Cattle Market site
- Continued development of the Epworth Hall
- Tourist Information Centre

The Group was aware that funding was available to help village hall committees work together.

Some comments attributed to this main heading were re-distributed to other more appropriate Focus Groups.

iv) Recreation, Leisure and Healthy Life Styles

This Focus Group had not held a meeting.

v) Older People

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that this Focus Group had analysed the comments from the public consultations and had prioritised the ideas:-

- Introduce a ‘dial-a-ride’ scheme for the whole town (not just the areas highlighted in the consultation)
- Introduce Health & Well-being training from the Community Hospital
- Members of Age Concern and CAB willing to act as Advisors
- More accessible luncheon clubs
- Scheme to coordinate emergency assistance in the town (reference made to the ‘Snowflake’ Scheme).

vi) Housing

Councillor Reynolds advised that the high priority was the provision of more affordable housing, with the main need being for one-bedroom homes to rent. He added that there was a good supply of larger two, three and four-bedroom homes on the open market in Helston.

In response to a question, Councillor Radford-Gaby advised that affordable homes could be provided by housing associations or private developers. The homes could then be for rent, shared ownership or discounted for local people.

Councillor Mrs Matthew stated that many houses were occupied by one elderly resident who may be restricted to living in one room, therefore more sheltered housing was needed to free-up larger homes. In response Councillor Radford-Gaby advised that all new homes must be built with disabled occupiers in mind and that Coastline Housing was mindful of the point made by Councillor Mrs Matthew.

vii) Children and Young People

Councillor Thomas informed the meeting that although the Focus Group had not formally met, Members had been in contact by email. He then advised that the aim of the Group was to identify a vision of how the town's young people could be catered for over the following ten years. The Group would create a log of existing youth groups and then invite leaders to a meeting. Possible outcomes might include:-

- Youth page on the Council website;
- Creation of a Youth Council;
- Venues to meet eg Dry Bar;
- Creation of a Town Youth Volunteer Bureau to link young volunteers with youth groups;
- Encourage local facilities to cater specifically for the youth in the early evening.

viii) Community Safety

This Group had not met however Councillor Thomas had emailed ideas and received a response from Councillor DC Swift.

Following the reports, it was agreed that the Council appoint a Member from each Focus Group to be responsible for organising the meetings as follows:-

Environment and Heritage	Cllr Mrs Matthew
Local Economy & Transport	Cllr Devenish
Community Facilities	Cllr Mrs Matthew
Recreation, Leisure & Healthy Life Styles	Cllr Pryor
Older People	Cllr Mrs Swift
Housing	Cllr Radford-Gaby
Children and Young People	Cllr Thomas
Community Safety	Cllr Thomas

It was agreed that the Focus Groups hold further meetings to expand on their priorities and report back to a Special Full Council meeting on 11th March 2010.

A discussion then ensued regarding the proposed funding for the Town Plan included in the draft 2010/11 budget.

Meeting closed at 8.29pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor