

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 17TH JUNE 2021 AT 7 PM

Councillors: T Grattan-Kane (Town Mayor) in the chair

R Williams	J Martin	G T Looker
R J L Boase	M J Kenchington	S L Ramsden
Mrs F N E Boase	M Benyon	P M Webb
M H Thomas	A Gilbert	

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

26. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Canon Miller.

27. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Reverend Reed and Real.

28. Cornwall Councillor Reports

Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he had dealt with a number of casework issues on behalf of residents and was grateful for Cornwall Council officers support in responding to matters. He further advised that he had attended the West and Strategic Planning Committee meetings and a Children and Families Scrutiny meeting.

29. Public Participation

A representative of Helston Climate Action Group (HCAG) expressed concern with the number of Council representatives on HCAG advising that he understood that this caused a problem with decision making at the Council and requested an Agenda item to reconsider this. The Town Clerk requested confirmation of the number of representatives sought by HCAG and confirmed that she could take the required action based on this information. The representative of HCAG then queried who was the current Chair of the Downsland Trust. The Mayor confirmed that in his capacity as a Trustee he was currently the Chair of the Downsland Trust.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding a resident with a large number of vehicles which was causing congestion in his housing estate. The Town Clerk confirmed that if the vehicles were taxed and insured and not illegally parked there was little that could be done. However, if the vehicles were causing an obstruction it was a police matter and if there were parking restrictions in place Cornwall Council's Civil Enforcement Officers could take action. Councillor R J L Boase queried if a business was being run from the property and advised that this could be a Planning Enforcement matter. Councillor Thomas confirmed that he was willing to meet with the member of the public the following day to review the issue.

30. Minutes

The Town Clerk advised that Minute No. 13 m) and n)/ 2021 for representatives on the Furry Youth Café Directorate and West Cornwall CCTV Group were incorrect duplicated and required deletion from the Minutes.

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20th May 2021 be approved subject to the above amendment and signed as a true record.

31. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 27th May 2021, be received.

32. Minutes of the Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3rd June 2021, be received.

33. Announcements

The Town Clerk advised that she would be on annual leave for a fortnight after the following day.

The Mayor advised that as Helston in Bloom had ceased he had agreed to fund the Hanging Baskets within the town centre from his Mayor's Fund and expressed his thanks to the Kehelland Trust and Councillor Williams for their assistance with the baskets. He advised the baskets were available to businesses within the town centre to be put up, taken down and watered at a cost of £30 per basket.

34. Response to the Climate Emergency

(1) Carbon Literacy Training

Councillor Benyon acknowledged the challenge of the climate emergency and expressed the opinion that the Council had a responsibility as an Earth Protector Town to be informed of the issues to enable effective decision making. The Town Clerk advised that she had received a response from Cornwall Council who was developing training with the intention to make it widely available but it was not presently ready for sharing outside of Cornwall Council.

At detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Martin, that Helston Town Council made a commitment for all Councillors and staff to complete carbon literacy training with support from an appropriate facilitator to help process the information and establish the next steps and promote the action using the Council's various platforms.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor RJJ Boase, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, that Helston Town Council made a commitment to encourage all Councillors and staff to complete carbon literacy training with support from an appropriate facilitator to help process the information and establish the next steps and promote the action using the Council's various platforms. The amendment was carried.

A further amendment was proposed by Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, that Helston Town Council made a commitment to encourage all Councillors and staff to complete climate and ecological emergency literacy training with support from an appropriate facilitator to help process the information and establish the next steps and promote

the action using the Council's various platforms. The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion and it was

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council made a commitment to encourage all Councillors and staff to complete climate and ecological emergency literacy training with support from an appropriate facilitator to help process the information and establish the next steps and promote the action using the Council's various platforms.

(2) Environmental Policy Review.

Councillor Benyon queried when the current Environmental Policy would be reviewed. The Mayor advised that all policies were reviewed by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee in September. The Town Clerk confirmed that there would be insufficient time to review the policy prior to this date. This item was noted.

(3) Climate Emergency Outreach Role

Councillor Benyon suggested that Helston Town Council commit a long term funding agreement for a suitably experienced person and consider the employment options. A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that Policy, Finance and Resources Committee consider the provision of the Climate Emergency Outreach Role.

35. Report of the Projects Officer

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

- Town Vitality Funding (TVF) – the revised offer letter had been received and accepted.
- Welcome Back Fund – the group had met and discussed various ideas which were being developed into a proposal.
- Helston Cultural Quarter – The architect would be commissioned once the funding was in place.
- Wendron Leats and Helston Kennels – They were continuing to review content for the digital exhibition, riparian owners were being made aware of their responsibilities and discussions were taking place regarding a friends groups.
- Helston Energy Scoping Study – the Southwest Energy Hub required further information on grid constraints.
- Coronation Gardens/ King George V Playing Fields – the results of the consultation were being analysed.

36. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Grant Application

Members expressed their support for the Cornwall Pride Bus Tour but raised concern with the consideration of the grant applications outside of the normal grants meetings as it was considered to disenfranchise other groups. With Council's support the Mayor advised that due to the unusual circumstances with Covid-19 he was willing on that occasion to provide a £500 grant from his Mayor's fund.

(2) 20's Plenty for Cornwall Campaign

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by the Mayor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council:

- a) participate in the 20's Plenty for Cornwall Campaign by contacting Cornwall Council to request 20mph speed limits on roads where people and traffic mix within Helston; and
- b) register with the national 20's plenty for us campaign.

(3) Representative on Helston CIC

Councillor Kenchington confirmed that clarification had been received from Helston CIC regarding meeting times which enabled him to continue at the Town Council's representative. This item was noted.

(4) Christmas Office Closure

It was proposed by Councillor RJJ Boase, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council offices be closed from 4.00pm on 23rd December 2021 and until 9am on 3rd January 2022 with an additional days leave being awarded for Christmas Eve.

The Town Clerk thanked the Council on behalf of all members of staff.

(5) Key-holders/ Fire Alarm Responders

It was agreed that in addition to the Mayor and the Town Warden, the Mayor and Councillors Williams and RJJ Boase continue as key-holders for the Guildhall. Councillors Gilbert, Ramsden and Webb volunteered to be appointed as additional key-holders.

37. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 135-190 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £33,959.47 be received.

Meeting closed at 9.16pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor