

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON**  
**ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM**

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

R Williams  
R J L Boase  
Mrs F N E Boase  
M H Thomas

J Martin  
M J Kenchington  
M Benyon  
C Real

G T Looker  
S L Ramsden  
P M Webb

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

**95. Prayers**

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Canon Miller.

**96. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Reverend Reed and Councillor Gilbert. An apology was also received from Cornwall Councillor Foreman.

**97. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Benyon and Ramsden declared an interest in the grant application for Helston Climate Action Group as Members of the group.

**98. Requests for Dispensations**

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Benyon had submitted a dispensation for the Full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in respect of the Helston Climate Action Group grant application to participate in debate as she could provide additional information but not vote on the matter.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council awarded Councillor Benyon a dispensation for the Full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to participate in debate in respect of the Helston Climate Action Group grant application but not vote on the matter.

**99. Cornwall Councillor Reports**

Cornwall Councillor Thomas thanked Cormac for their assistance with the repairs to the East Leat supplying the Kennel system and the completion of the public right of way behind Belmont Road which provided a safe route from Belmont Road to Carey Parc. He then informed Members that works had commenced for the installation of a permanent vehicle activates sign on the Redruth Road as part of Phase 1 safety programme on the B3297. Councillor Thomas advised that there had been a delay between the repair of the Leat and the water flowing in the Kennels while Biffa cleared them of waste and the flow level was being monitored. He appealed to residents and visitors to not place anything in the watercourse

which could cause blockages or items such as cigarette butts which impacted on the water quality of the Cober and Loe Pool. Councillor Thomas then spoke on his role within Economic Growth and Development outlining ongoing activities. Councillor Thomas raised concern with the status of GLL Leisure Centres advising that a number were potentially facing closure but Helston was currently not included. He advised that Cornwall Council would shortly be carrying out a consultation for views on proposed changes to the provision of leisure centres in Cornwall. Cornwall Councillor Thomas then responded to Members questions.

### **101. Public Participation**

Members of the public spoke to raise concerns with the condition of the Kennels which they considered a significant feature of the town and they were of the opinion a plan should be in place to resolve flow issues. Councillor Thomas advised that the water flow did not have a function apart from aesthetics and the flow depended on many issues including riparian owners, people not dropping litter in the Kennels and an extraction licence making it a complex situation. He confirmed he hoped to hold a public meeting to encourage the creation of a Friends group and advised that he was happy to discuss the issue further outside of the meeting.

A resident of Wendron Street raised concern with parking problems in the area and expressed the desire for the introduction of a residents parking scheme. Councillor Thomas confirmed that he was willing to have a conversation with the resident outside of the meeting in his capacity as a Cornwall Council regarding residents parking schemes.

Representatives of Helston Athletic Football Club and the Lizard Child Trust spoke in support of their grant applications to outline their activities and the need for the works detailed in their applications.

Representatives of the Helston Climate Action Group spoke to urge the Council to take action regarding climate change encouraging engagement with the climate and ecological emergency training and requesting no further delay in the calculation of the carbon footprint.

### **102. Minutes**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 be approved and signed as a true record.

### **103. Minutes of the Amenities Committee**

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Minutes contained the following recommendation:

*That a budget of £5,000 from the Carbon Footprint Reduction budget be set for Phase I of the Coronation Gardens/ King George V Playing Fields Project.*

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, be received and the recommendation approved.

**104. Minutes of the Planning Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021, be received.

**105. Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021, be received.

**106. Announcements**

The Mayor advised that together with the Town Clerk and the Grounds and General Maintenance Supervisor he had met with representatives of Penzance Town Council to discuss and demonstrate the equipment they used for herbicide free weed control.

**107. Digital Community Hub**

A representative of Wildanet spoke to explain the benefits and what was involved in the formation of a Digital Community Hub advising that the scheme was intended to reduce digital exclusion. She confirmed that Wildanet would provide free internet connectivity for the selected community halls and could also provide the devices to access the internet, desks & chairs for the Hub and privacy pods if a private room was not available. She confirmed that the venue would need to provide a suitable room with a power supply and agree to the installation of the required equipment. A detailed debate ensued during which the representative from Wildanet responded to Members questions. At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Benyon, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council supported the creation of a Digital Community Hub in principle and referred the matter to a Working Party meeting to discuss and report back to Full Council.

**108. Town Council Carbon Audit**

Councillor Kenchington advised that the Carbon Audit for the Town Council had been completed using a Local Government Authority model which provided the Council with a baseline. He recommended the formation of a Carbon Footprint Working Party to produce a Helston Town Council Action Plan to reduce the Councils carbon footprint in the short and long term. Councillor Kenchington advised that the Working Party would need to monitor progress and report back to Full Council on a 3 monthly basis and would evaluate progress on an annual basis and produce revised actions to work towards the agreed 2030 target.

A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by the Mayor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a Carbon Footprint Reduction Working Party meeting be created.

The Mayor and Councillors Martin, Kenchington, Benyon and Ramsden together with the Town Clerk were appointed onto the Carbon Footprint Reduction Working Party.

**109. Policy regarding use of Face Masks and Social Distancing**

Councillor Ramsden expressed the opinion that despite the latest advice the continued use of face masks and social distancing were a necessity giving details of the statistics for Covid infection rates and deaths both nationally and locally. A detailed debate then ensued.

It was proposed by Councillor Ramsden, seconded by Councillor Martin, that in the interest of the safety of the Councillors, Council staff and members of the public, all physical meetings of the Council and other groups held at the Guildhall continue to adhere to previous social distancing rules and the use of face masks, to be reviewed when the scientific evidence suggests it is safe to discontinue these practices.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor R J L Boase, that in the interest of the safety of the Councillors, Council staff and members of the public, all physical meetings of the Council continue to adhere to previous social distancing rules and the use of face masks and all other groups be advised to wear masks and maintain social distancing measures, to be reviewed when the scientific evidence suggests it is safe to discontinue these practices. The amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that in the interest of the safety of the Councillors, Council staff and members of the public, all physical meetings of the Council continue to adhere to previous social distancing rules and the use of face masks and all other groups be advised to wear masks and maintain social distancing measures, to be reviewed when the scientific evidence suggests it is safe to discontinue these practices.

Councillor Ramsden withdrew his Motion to encourage business to continue social distancing and the use of face masks as he was of the opinion that the Council could not do this when the requirement was not placed on all users of the Guildhall.

**110. Climate and Ecological Emergency Training**

Amanda Brookman gave a presentation on the need for Climate and Ecological Emergency Training during which she referred to the disruptions which were happening across the globe and the impact to localities and gave statistics regarding the level of anxiety over climate change. She advised that Helston had a reputation of being a leader in the field and encouraged participation in the training, advising that the Council needed to agree the what percentage undertook training to become the first climate literate Council. Councillor Benyon confirmed that the training was being offered at a reduced cost and it was an opportunity for the Council to set an example to others. A brief debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that at least 75% of Councillors and Officers should undertake the training to become Climate Literate.

It was further proposed by Councillor Ramsden, seconded by Councillor Benyon, and

RESOLVED – that the training take place over a daytime session and evening sessions and both sessions be open to all.

On the proposition of Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, it was

RESOLVED – that a Climate Training Working Party be formed to agree the arrangements and specific outcomes for the training.

Councillors Martin, Benyon, Ramsden, Real and Webb were appointed onto the Climate Training Working Party.

#### **111. Report of the Projects Officer**

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

- Welcome Back Fund – He had not yet heard back from the fund expressing his disappointment as it had been hoped to support some events which were due to take place in the near future.
- Community Toilets – He had a meeting with the Mayor the following week to contact targeted businesses to determine interest.
- Wendron Leats and Helston Kennels – Whilst the Kennels were not Helston Town Council's responsibility and belonged to Cornwall Council he was trying to explore capital funding for repairs. He advised that the cost to repair the Kennels was enormous and it was hoped to include any works in the place shaping scheme to enhance Coinagehall Street. He had also been investigating the possibility of feeding the kennel via alternative water sources although the feasibility of this still had to be confirmed.
- Community Energy Project – The applications to the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) were on a rolling basis so it was possible to apply before the end of each month up to the end of March which gave the timescales for the project greater flexibility.
- Coronation Gardens – Progress was being made and he was arranging a design workshop with the Scout Group and was in discussion with other user groups. Feedback had not yet been received from the Places Called Home Budget.

#### **112. Report of the Town Clerk**

##### **(1) Grants**

**Councillor Ramsden declared an interest in the Helston Climate Action Group (HCAG) Application and left the meeting during this item at 9.27pm. Councillor Benyon declared an interest in the HCAG Application and left the meeting during this item after providing additional information on the application at 9.29pm. Councillors Benyon and Ramsden returned to the meeting at 9.32pm.**

- a) Determination of whether a grant would be awarded

It was agreed to award a grant to each of the following organisations:

- i) Epworth Hall
- ii) Helston Athletic Football Club
- iii) Helston Bowling Club
- iv) Helston Community Meals
- v) Helston Cricket Club
- vi) Helston Town Band
- vii) Lizard CHILD Trust
- viii) Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust

It was agreed not to award a grant to the following organisations:

- i) Sapphire Sumpter – supported by CAST
  - ii) Helston Climate Action Group
- b) Determination of amount of grant funding awarded
- i) Epworth Hall

It was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Real, that a grant of £1,200.00 be awarded to the Epworth Hall towards the refurbishment and renovation of the garden area.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Williams, that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to the Epworth Hall towards the refurbishment and renovation of the garden area. The Amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that under the General Power of Competence a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to the Epworth Hall towards the refurbishment and renovation of the garden area.

- ii) Helston Athletic Football Club

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Thomas, that a grant of £2,000.00 be pledged to the Helston Athletic Football Club towards the provision of spectator hardstanding.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, that a grant of £4,500.00 be pledged to the Helston Athletic Football Club towards the provision of spectator hardstanding. The Amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that under the General Power of Competence a grant of £4,500.00 be pledged to the Helston Athletic Football Club towards the provision of spectator hardstanding.

- iii) Helston Bowling Club

It was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and  
RESOLVED – that under the General Power of Competence a grant of £600 be awarded to Helston Bowling Club for improvements to the ditches surrounding the Green.

iv) Helston Community Meals

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Benyon, that a grant of £2,500.00 be awarded to Helston Community Meals for the provision of a commercial oven.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Looker, that a grant of £3,100.00 be awarded to Helston Community Meals for the provision of a commercial oven. The Amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that under the General Power of Competence a grant of £3,100.00 be awarded to Helston Community Meals for the provision of a commercial oven.

v) Helston Cricket Club

It was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor R J L Boase, and  
RESOLVED – that under the General Power of Competence a grant of £2,000 be pledged to Helston Cricket Club towards for the provision of new practice nets.

**113. Suspension of Standing Order 1.29**

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Order 1.29 be suspended to allow the meeting to continue past the 3 hour limit to complete the consideration of the Town Clerk's Report and to authorise the Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

**114. Report of the Town Clerk (Cont.)**

**(1) Grants (Cont.)**

vi) Helston Town Band

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Martin, and  
RESOLVED – that under the General Power of Competence a grant of £2,000 be awarded to Helston Town Band for the Flora Day Uniform Fund for the provision of new hats.

An Amendment had been proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to Helston Town Band for the Flora Day Uniform Fund towards the provision of new hats. The Amendment failed.

vii) Lizard CHILD Trust

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

RESOLVED – that under the General Power of Competence a grant of £985 be awarded to the Lizard CHILD Trust for the installation of Acoustic Treatment Sound Clouds.

viii) Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust

It was proposed by Councillor Ramsden, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and  
RESOLVED – that under the General Power of Competence a grant of £1,700 be awarded to Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust to sponsor two boxes of texts.

An Amendment had been proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Williams, that a grant of £850 be awarded to Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust to sponsor one box of texts. The Amendment failed.

## **(2) Resignation from Committees**

It was agreed that Councillor Martin be appointed onto the Amenities Committee.

## **(3) Cornwall Council – Climate Literacy Training**

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

RESOLVED – that the Council accept Cornwall Council’s Climate Literacy Training offer and the Mayor and Councillor Looker be appointed as the two participants.

## **115. Schedule of Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 245-310 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £50749.31 be received and Account Nos. 311-340 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £34,016.26 be certified for payment.

**Meeting closed at 10.08pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**