

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.00 PM

Councillors: Miles Kenchington (Deputy Town Mayor) in the Chair

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

Officers: Miss P J Lavelle (Town Clerk)
Miss A D Retallack (Deputy Town Clerk)
Miss A Y Johnston (Mayor's Secretary & Administrative Assistant)

172. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Reverend Christine Schmaus.

173. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor (Councillor Grattan-Kane) Councillor Martin, and the Projects Officer.

174. Sergeants at Mace

Mrs Amanda Jane Boxer and Mr Stuart Harvey, having been appointed by the Mayor as Sergeants-at-Mace for the civic year 2021/22, were duly sworn to Office by the Town Clerk.

175. Cornwall Councillor's Reports

Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he had been supporting cycle-way improvements in and beyond Helston. Councillor Thomas further advised that there would be a multi-agency pop-up drop-in for the Homeless at The Godolphin Club the following week. He confirmed he was working closely with Coastline Housing to review the quality of Coastline provision within his division and was also working with Coastline Housing on a small allotments project. Councillor Thomas then informed Members of his ongoing work to resist the possible closure of the sports centres.

Cornwall Councillor Foreman informed Members that Cornwall Council has several consultations in progress on their website and confirmed that he had supplied the Town and parishes with wildflower seeds to commemorate the Jubilee. Councillor Foreman expressed concern in respect of the situation with the Meneage Road school crossing patrol advising he had requested that the position be filed as a priority. Councillor Foreman advised that he had suggested the future use of body cameras to reduce the risk to the patrol officer which would provide evidence for prosecution.

176. Public Participation

A member of the public spoke on behalf of Helston Climate Action Group (HCAG) to urge Councillors to amend the pesticide policy and review the use of pesticides in the town with an aim of becoming pesticide and herbicide free.

A member of the public read a statement on behalf of a representative of HCAG advising that Helston Town Council's use of non-chemical weeding in play areas and verges was recognised but herbicide free maintenance of the kennels was requested as the next step. It was further advised that a meeting was being held with Wadebridge Town Council to view their approach to being herbicide free and a representative of Helston Town Council was given the opportunity to attend.

Councillor Real entered the meeting at 7.29pm

177. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st October 2021 be approved and signed as a true record as amended.

178. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

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

179. Announcements

The Town Clerk informed Members that it has been six months since the election and it would be pertinent time for Members to review their Register of Interest.

180. Provision of Youth Workers

Councillor Naomi Osmond of Porthleven Town Council addressed Members explaining the history of youth worker provision in Helston and outlining the current provision to the best of her knowledge. Councillor Osmond informed the meeting that Porthleven Town Council were advertising to employ two part time youth workers. Councillor Benyon advised that she had informally discussed the situation with Councillor Osmond and suggested that Helston Town Council could collaborate with Porthleven Town Council to fund the provision of additional youth work cover in Helston.

Following a detailed debate, on the proposition of Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk investigate the provision of youth workers in Helston and produce a report on the implications and benefits for the December Full Council meeting.

Councillor Gilbert left the meeting at 8.17pm and returned at 8.18pm

181. Strategic Plan

Councillor Kenchington advised that it was six months since the election and had a clearer picture of the activities of Helston Town Council. He expressed the opinion that the Council's current plan was not a strategic plan and briefly outlined the process for producing a strategic plan volunteering to research the possibility of external facilitation for two sessions in February. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Looker, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Councillor Kenchington produce a revised outline for the development of a strategic plan for consideration at the December Full Council meeting to enable the activities for the production of a strategic plan to commence in February.

182. Policy on the use of Pesticides and Herbicides

Members considered the report by the Town Clerk regarding the Policy on the use of Pesticides and Herbicides (circulated prior to the meeting) and the Town Clerk briefly outlined the present situation and some of the options available to the Council. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, that Helston Town Council phase out use of pesticides and herbicides as soon as is practical for Council maintenance activities.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Williams, that an amended policy be developed to enable the phasing out of pesticide and herbicide use as soon as practical. The amendment was carried.

A further amendment was proposed by Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Webb, that a working party be formed to develop an amended policy to enable the phasing out of pesticide and herbicide use as soon as is practical. The amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that a working party be formed to develop an amended policy to enable the phasing out of pesticide and herbicide use as soon as is practical.

Councillors Mrs Boase, Benyon, Ramsden, Real and Webb together with the Town Clerk were appointed onto the Pesticide & Herbicide Policy Working Party.

183. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Review of Council's Policy for Mask Wearing and Social Distancing

On the Proposition of Councillor Ramsden, seconded by Councillor Real, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Policy remain unchanged.

(2) Closure of Barclays Helston Branch

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Real, seconded by Councillor Webb, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk investigate alternative banking options.

It had been proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Williams, that the Town Council transfer the Barclays accounts to Lloyds Bank. This motion failed.

184. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 393 - 464 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £40,131.15 be received and be certified for payment.

185. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of the Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Real, 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.

186. Staffing and Equipment requirements for Herbicide Free Weed Control

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

RESOLVED – that this item be deferred to await the outcome of the amended policy.

187. Administrative Capacity of the Council

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

RESOLVED – that the situation be reviewed at the Full Council meeting on 16th June 2022.

Meeting closed at 9.52pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor