

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 17TH MARCH 2022 AT 7.00 PM

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

R J L Boase

Mrs F N E Boase

M H Thomas

J Martin

M Kenchington

M Benyon

G T Looker

S L Ramsden

C L D Real

P M Webb

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

257. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Canon David Miller.

258. Absent

Councillors Williams and Reverend Reed were absent without submitting apologies.

259. Requests for Dispensations

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Looker had submitted a dispensation for 4 years from 17th March 2022 meeting in respect the Community Governance Review, item 6 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 19), to participate in the debate as he could provide an insight into the issue but not vote on the matter.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council awarded Councillor Looker a dispensation for the term of the current Council to participate in the debate in respect of the Community Governance Review but not vote on the matter.

260. Cornwall Councillors' Reports

Apologies were received from Cornwall Councillor Foreman.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas gave a detailed report on his activities advising that he was involved in a number of casework matters which included minor highways issues and the suggestion to plant three trees for the Platinum Jubilee on the green at Gwealdues. He further advised that the budget for 2022/23 had been agreed by Cornwall Council the previous month and briefly updated Members on the changes to the structure of the Localism team. Cornwall Councillor Thomas then referred to the Levelling Up proposals currently being offered by HM Government which included the possible introduction of a Mayor of Cornwall.

261. 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 17th February 2022 and the Special Town Council meeting held on 24th February 2022 be approved and signed as a true record.

Councillor Benyon abstained from the vote as she had not been present at the meeting.

262. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the Minutes of the Special Policy, Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 7th February 2022 be received and the recommendations approved; and
- b) the Minutes of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee meeting held on 8th March 2022 be received.

Councillor Benyon abstained from the vote as she had not been present at the meetings.

263. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Amenities Committee meeting held on 23rd February 2022 be received.

Councillor Benyon abstained from the vote as she had not been present at the meeting.

264. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3rd March 2022 be received.

Councillor Benyon abstained from the vote as she had not been present at the meeting.

265. Announcements

The Town Clerk confirmed that a resignation had been received from Mr A Gilbert which had resulted on a vacancy on Helston North Ward. The Town Clerk further advised that Mrs K Best would be leaving the administrative team in early April.

The Mayor thanked all those who had attended the march around the Boating Lake in solidarity for Ukraine and confirmed that £377 had been raised for the DEC Ukraine appeal. The Mayor further advised that the St Piran's Day Lantern Parade had been an outstanding success, and the presentation of prizes to the winners of the 'I Love Helston' photography competition had taken place immediately prior to the meeting.

266. Housing Crisis in Cornwall

Councillor Looker introduced Mr A Young from Coastline Housing who gave a detailed presentation on the housing crisis in Cornwall from Coastline Housings perspective. At the conclusion of the presentation Mr Young then responded to Members questions.

It was proposed by Councillor Looker, seconded by Councillor Webb, and

RESLOVED – that the Council hold a vote of thanks to Mr Young for an informative presentation.

267. Sharing Information and Signposting

Councillor Benyon withdrew the item advising that she was awaiting the results of the Communication Strategy and the presentation on Discover Helston.

268. Freeman Ceremony

The Mayor expressed the opinion that there were certain individuals within the town who were deserving of being made Freeman and he was of the opinion that the Council should consider whether another ceremony should be held.

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a Freeman Ceremony should be held and Members be invited to submit nominations for recipients to the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk confirmed that she would produce a report containing details of the nominations and the ceremony requirements for consideration at the following Full Council meeting.

269. Report of the Projects Officer

The Projects Officer updated Members on his report (circulated prior to the meeting) to advise that the Music Day event would be taking place the following Saturday with the Methodist Church and the Corn Exchange used as alternative venues in the event of poor weather conditions. He further advised that he anticipated receipt of the grant offer letters from the RCEF for the Helston Community Energy Project in the near future. Members thanked the Projects Officer for his hardwork with the RCEF applications.

270. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) CCTV for Helston Bowling Club

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

RESOLVED – that permission be given to Helston Bowling Club to install CCTV cameras on the Pavilion but the organisation be encouraged to liaise with the Police to ensure the cameras were of sufficient quality for evidentiary purposes.

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

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

RESOLVED – that the Policy remain unchanged

(3) Anti-Social Behaviour

This item was noted.

(4) Communications Strategy

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the Town Clerk produce a report on the implications and options for the creation of a Communications Officer post; and
- b) an informal meeting be held with the representative from Breakthrough Communications to discuss the draft Communications Strategy.

(5) Health and Care Bill

It was agreed that Councillors would respond as individuals.

(6) Community Governance Review Consultation

The Town Clerk read a statement on behalf of Wendron Parish Council. For the benefit of Members who had joined the Council at the May 2021 elections Councillor Thomas gave a detailed history of the Community Governance Review process to date. Councillor Thomas advised that, as previously, when acting in his capacity as Cornwall Councillor he would represent his area but should he be called as a substitute on the Panel he would not participate in the vote. Councillor Looker then outlined the concerns held by Wendron Parish Council and expressed his personal opinion on the situation.

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

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council requested a change to the current boundary as indicated by the red line on Map 1.2, leading to the transfer of land from Wendron to Helston parish so that the HX1 development would be within Helston parish.

At the request of the Mayor, the consideration of the Schedule of Accounts for Payment was brought forward.

271. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 644 - 713 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £56,401.80 be received and be certified for payment.

272. Report of the Town Clerk (Cont.)

(7) Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

This item was deferred to the 21st April 2022 Full Council meeting.

(8) CCTV Monitoring Hours

The Town Clerk outlined the current contracted monitoring hours and requested confirmation on whether Members wished to amend the times. Councillor Thomas expressed the opinion that changes were not required as the times which were amended during the pandemic were continuing. A detailed debate ensued.

In accordance with Standing Order 1.29 the meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor