

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2010 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: R J L Boase (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
Mrs S M E Swift
N J C Devenish
K Reynolds

Mrs V J Matthew
D C Swift
Mrs F N E Boase
R R Pryor

M H Thomas
J P Radford-Gaby
Mrs W A Radford-Gaby

Officers: Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P J Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)

372. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Mayor's Chaplain, Canon David Miller.

373. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Boase declared an interest in item 4 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 15) as a member of the Bulwark Road Residents Association.

374. Police Matters

The Mayor extended a welcome to WPC Butcher who presented a detailed report which included recent crime figures and those for the corresponding period from the year previous.

375. Public Participation

Miss V Parker spoke on behalf of the Bulwark Road Residents Association to explain the proposed new play area and detailed the group's fundraising to date.

Cornwall Councillor Wallis urged Members to support the Bulwark Road Residents Association's request for funding.

Mr I Perry addressed the Council and made particular mention to the Christmas Lights, the closure of Helston Police Station, water flowing in the Kennels, a bus shelter for Coinagehall Street and a crossing on the Porthleven Road. Mr Perry then thanked the Mayoress for attending the Age Concern Christmas luncheon and wished Members a Merry Christmas.

Councillor Devenish expressed his dismay at the closure of the Helston Police Station and asked for an update on the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings. WPC Butcher advised that it was intended for the PACT meetings to continue and once the matter of appointing a Chair had been resolved it was intended that the PACT process would be re-launched.

Councillor Mrs Haycock spoke in regard of the provision of CCTV in Helston (Item 1 of the Town Clerk's Report, Agenda item 15) and requested WPC Butcher's opinion on CCTV. WPC Butcher expressed the opinion that CCTV was beneficial and specified when CCTV was most required. She further advised that she would be disappointed to see a reduction in the service but could understand the requirement for budget cuts.

376. Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Pryor, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 18th November 2010 be approved and signed as a true record.

377. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 11th November 2010, be received.

378. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 18th November and 2nd December 2010, be received.

379. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 25th November 2010, be received.

380. Minutes of the Play Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Play Committee meeting held on the 6th December 2010, be received.

381. Announcements

The Mayor announced that Mr Richard Dennery had been appointed as the Town Centre Manager and would commence work on 1st March 2011.

382. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors and the Community Network Manager

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Members considered written reports provided by Councillors Robertson and Mrs Haycock circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk advised that an apology for non-attendance had been received from Councillor Robertson.

Councillor Mrs Haycock indicated that she had further information to report and Councillor Wallis advised that he wished to give a verbal report.

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that the Cornwall Councillors be allowed to speak on this occasion.

Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that further to item 3 (a) on the Town Clerk's report (Agenda item 15) the Gorsedd Local Organising Committee did not require the use of the Guildhall for meetings as they would be using the Museum. Councillor Mrs Haycock further advised that Cornwall Council had agreed that if all eleven councils did not agree to the contribution for the CCTV scheme then CCTV would no longer be monitored and urged Members to support the contribution.

Councillor Wallis apologised for not submitting a written report but advised that the information he had to report had only come to his attention the previous week and expressed the opinion that the Cornwall Councillors should be allowed some scope to speak at the meeting. Councillor Wallis advised that following the comments received regarding residents' parking at Castle Green an amendment had been proposed that those parking permits currently not at market value would only see a 10% rise. Councillor Wallis also confirmed that the installation of a crossing on the Porthleven Road would commence in January.

The Town Clerk advised that Cornwall Councillors could e-mail him with additional information at any time which could be conveyed to Members adding that they did not have to wait until the meeting to pass on information.

Councillor Reynolds advised that he was pleased the concerns of the residents and the Town Council had been listened to regarding the Castle Green residents' car parking charges. Councillor Reynolds then expressed his disappointment that the Christmas free parking had been removed. Councillor Wallis advised that he was only the Chair of the Advisory Parking Panel and was not in a position to make that decision. Councillor Wallis then confirmed that the decision to cease the Christmas free parking had been taken by the Portfolio Holder.

b) Community Network Manager

Members considered a written report provided by the Community Network Manager and congratulated Mrs Chadwick on her work with regards to the Youth Café.

383. Renewable Energy Generation Survey

Councillor Reynolds reminded Members that he had been asked to investigate the use of renewable energy at the Guildhall and outlined his investigations. Councillor Reynolds then explained the potential income from solar panels on the Guildhall roof and suggested that a free survey be requested with a free presentation made to the Amenities Committee. A detailed debate ensued and it was then proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor D C Swift, and

RESOLVED – that the Motion be put to the vote.

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council invite Independent Energy to carry out a free survey of the Guildhall for renewable energy generation and then to make a free presentation to the Amenities Committee of their findings and the estimated revenue stream and costs for this socially-classed building.

384. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) CCTV

It was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Mrs Radford-Gaby, and

RESOLVED – that the budget be deferred until the last item of the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that both Falmouth and Penzance Town Councils had resolved not to pay the additional cost, Camborne Town Council had requested further information and Redruth Town Council had resolved not to pay the contribution and expressed the opinion that the cost should be spread across the county. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Pryor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council did not contribute to the CCTV service and to express the opinion that the Service should be funded by spreading the cost over the entire county.

(2) Pavements – Meneage Street and Coinagehall Street

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council support the use of concrete slabs for first-time repairs to pavements in a Conservation Area and requested confirmation of a time scale for completion of the final repair.

(3) Gorsedd

a) Meeting Venue

The Town Clerk advised that this item was no longer required.

b) Representative for the Gorsedd Local Organising Committee

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, and

RESOLVED – that the Mayor be appointed as Helston Town Council's representative on the Gorsedd Local Organising Committee.

The Town Clerk further advised that he had received a letter from Mrs Knight, Secretary of the Gorsedd Local Organising Committee, requesting the use of the Town Crest image on commemorative ware and publicity materials. On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was

RESOLVED – that the Gorsedd Local Organising Committee be permitted to use the Town Crest.

(4) Bulwark Play Area

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by the Mayor, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council pledge £2,000 towards the Bulwark Road Play Area Scheme.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Thomas, that the Town Council pledge £3,000.00 towards the Bulwark Road Play Area Scheme. The amendment failed.

(5) Register of Interests

This item was noted.

(6) Insurance Claim

This item was noted.

(7) Kennels

This item was noted.

(8) Office Closure

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and
RESOLVED – that the office close at 12.00 noon on Christmas Eve.

(9) Falmouth Marine School

On the proposition of Councillor D C Swift, seconded by Councillor Pryor, it was
RESOLVED – that the offer of a presentation by the Head of the Falmouth Marine School on the role of the Marine School be accepted and the presentation be made to the Amenities Committee.

The Mayor declared an interest in the following item.

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair at 9.35pm.

385. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

On the proposition of Councillor D C Swift, seconded by Councillor Thomas, it was
RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 299-341 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £19,285.52.

Councillor J P Radford-Gaby voted against the Motion.

(The Mayor declared an interest in Account Nos. 308 and 334. Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account No. 340. Councillor Mrs Boase declared an interest in Account No. 308.)

It was agreed that the cheques would be signed by Councillor Williams and Councillor Devenish.

386. Reports on Attendance at Meetings

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

RESOLVED – that the written reports submitted by Councillors Mrs Swift and Mrs Boase be received.

387. Items for the next Agenda

The Mayor requested that Members contact the Town Clerk's office to place items on the following Full Council Agenda.

388. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Devenish, it was

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 item of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

389. Helston Community Centre

Members considered correspondence from the Town Council's Solicitor (circulated prior to the meeting). Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Devenish, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council would be prepared to settle the matter on condition that:

- a) the Helston & District Community Association gave vacant possession of the Community Centre by the 28th February 2011;
- b) by the 14th March 2011 the parties jointly apply to the Court for an Order by consent that the Helston & District Community Association's claim be withdrawn; and
- c) the Helston & District Community Association pay a contribution of £4,500 towards the Town Council's legal costs.

The Mayor and Councillors Williams, Mrs Matthew, D C Swift and Mrs Boase voted against the Motion.

It was further proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that a Press Release be issued at the earliest opportunity.

390. Resumption of Public Session

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

RESOLVED – that the public session be resumed and the press and public be permitted to re-enter the meeting.

391. 2011/12 Budget

The Council considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) that contained the final draft budget for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2012.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the first draft had been considered by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee at its meeting held on 9th November 2010 and was recommended for approval as set out. He then invited questions.

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the budget of £10,000 for Professional Fees be deleted; and
- b) a budget of £3,000 be included to enhance the Council Chamber Public Address System.

It was then proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the 2011/12 budget be approved subject to the above amendments; and
- b) the Precept for 2011/12 be set at £189,490.

On the proposition on Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Devenish, it was

RESOLVED – that a Press Release be issued.

It was further proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that the Schedule of Fees and Charges be approved as set out.

Meeting closed at 9.44pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor