

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2008 AT 7.15 P.M.

Present: Councillor N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors:

R. Williams	P. Phillips	D.C. Swift
J.H.M. Keay	R.J.L. Boase	Mrs F.N.E. Boase
Mrs S.M.E. Swift	K. Reynolds	R. R. Pryor
N.C. Martin	Mrs V.J. Matthew	

Officers: Mr C. Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P. J. Lavelle (Finance and Committee Assistant)
Mr C. Bowcutt (Town Warden)

227. APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance was received from the Mayor's Chaplain.

228. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Swift declared an interest in Agenda item 4 as a member of Kerrier District Council's Planning Committee.

Councillor Keay declared an interest in Agenda item 4 as a member of Kerrier District Council's Planning Committee and advised that he would participate in the decision but would reserve final judgement until the Application was considered by Kerrier District Council's Planning Committee. Councillor Keay also declared an interest in Agenda item 20 as a member of the Helston and District Community Association.

Councillor Williams also declared an interest in Agenda item 4 as he had a business relationship with the Applicant.

Councillor Phillips advised that he would abstain from Agenda item 4 as he was concerned that he could be considered to have predetermined the Application when it came before the Planning Committee.

Councillor Boase declared an interest in item 9 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 14) as a member of the Christmas Lights Committee.

229. PLANNING APPLICATION

- i) **Planning Application PA08/01608/F
Demolition of domestic garage blocks and
erection of five dwellings with associated parking.
Garages, Shute Hill, Helston
For Stonewater Design & Build Limited
and Graceloft Limited**

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the public to make observations.

Mrs McQueen advised that she was representing the neighbours surrounding the Application site. Mrs McQueen spoke on the current and previous applications and the history of the site during which she made the following points:

- the application did not address the major factors concerning the whole site;
- there was no Conservation Area Consent application;
- the Applicant planned to excavate land that had been in-filled with no knowledge of what was beneath;
- the Applicant had no knowledge of the water course beneath the site which included a well;
- the Application failed to detail drainage or mains supply for water, electricity or gas;
- concrete walls built on top of listed walls were to be demolished which would change the geography of the site;
- would impinge on the privacy of neighbouring properties;
- the proposal would be overcrowding of the site as it could house up to 30 people;
- would increase problems with parking, noise and anti-social behaviour;
- the Outline planning permission was granted prior to the site being Grade II Listed and prior to the site's inclusion in the Conservation Area;
- the complete site including the original boundary walls, exercise yard and prison had been Grade II Listed as the site was rare and historically significant and the only one of its type in Cornwall;
- historically the site had only ever provided municipal facilities or business facilities;
- all buildings on the site had always been single storey; and
- six years had passed since Outline planning permission was granted, which proved that providing low cost affordable housing had never been a priority of any application.

Mrs Haycock advised that the application was not within her Ward and she was not speaking as a Kerrier District Councillor. Mrs Haycock then spoke in objection to the Application and made the following points:

- size and height on the buildings would dominate the surrounding area and be very visible;
- nine windows would overlook surrounding properties and would cause a loss of privacy;
- all the properties in the surrounding area were bungalows;
- existing buildings ran with the contour of the land - these properties would not; and
- the development would cause a loss of a public view as the hills in the distance and the church would no longer be visible.

Mr Busby spoke on his familiarity with the site and expressed the opinion that the land had never been used as the prison exercise yard. Mr Busby also confirmed that whilst previous buildings had been single storey they had very high roofs so there would not have been a view.

Several of the neighbouring residents spoke to advise that they were very much against the proposal and confirmed that Mrs McQueen and Mrs Haycock had their full support.

There being no other issues raised it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be resumed.

The Mayor visited the application site and gave a presentation with the aid of photographs.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council recommended refusal of Application PA08/01608/F:

- a) as the proposed development would be an overdevelopment of the site;
- b) to protect the historic skyline of Helston; and
- c) as the original Outline planning permission had been granted prior to the inclusion of the site within the curtilidge of the Conservation Area.

Councillor Keay abstained from the vote.

Councillors Williams, Mrs Swift and Phillips took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

230. POLICE MATTERS

The Mayor extended a welcome to PCSO Whitford and Sergeant Pascoe. PCSO Whitford then presented a detailed report which included recent crime figures and identified a small number of issues within the town including the Sunken Garden and poor ‘Designated Area’ signage.

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that the problems with the CCTV camera in the Sunken Garden had been discussed with the One Cornwall Team and they were attempting to rectify the issue.

Councillor Reynolds expressed concerns that the ‘Designated Area’ signs were not effective. It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to Kerrier District Council to request that they rectify the problems with the ‘Designated Area’ signage.

231. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Busby spoke on a report in the Press regarding people ignoring the One-way Regulations in Penrose Road and expressed concern that the problems were caused by the road being dug up without a Road Closure Order. Mr Busby then asked how people who lived in that area were expected to reach their homes. Sergeant Pascoe advised that the Police would use their discretion in these circumstances. Mr Busby then spoke on the problems with bus routes and suggested alternative routes. He also advised that the Cades Parc play area had always been waterlogged.

Mr A Cameron invited Members to attend the Community Supported Agriculture Event on Wednesday 22nd October at which Mr N Weir from Stroud Community Agriculture Project would be giving a talk. Mr Cameron advised that there was a demand for local food as shown by the Farmers Market and the National Trust allotments which were over subscribed.

232. MINUTES

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that the resolution for Minute No. 203 (1) (f) was incorrect and should be amended to read ‘that no grant could be awarded at this time to the Kerrier District Council Outreach Team and the Town Clerk attempt to establish if the team were to continue after April 2009.’

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 18th September 2008 be approved subject to the above amendment and signed as a true record.

233. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

On the proposition of Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 18th September and 2nd October 2008, be received.

234. MINUTES OF THE HARVEST FAIR

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 2nd October 2008, be received.

235. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded Members that the Weed and Litter Clearance was taking place on Sunday 19th October at 2pm and expressed the hope that as many Members as possible attend.

236. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

a) Local County Councillors

Councillor Phillips gave a detailed report on the visit of the Children, Young People & Families Scrutiny Committee to Helston School and Community College. The Scrutiny Committee would be reviewing the condition of school buildings in Cornwall.

Councillor Curnow confirmed that he agreed with Councillor Phillips' report and expressed the opinion that it was a big problem for schools in Cornwall but felt that Helston should be the top of the list. Councillor Curnow also informed Members that he had renewed his request that a Secretary of State visit schools in Cornwall to assess their condition. Councillor Curnow further advised that County Councillors had been given £3000 for community projects and he still had some money left which he was willing to use to support projects in Helston.

Councillor Mrs Lyne congratulated Members on the idea of pushing forward a bus shelter on the Falmouth Road. She also advised that she was a member of the Implementation Executive.

The Mayor advised that he had contacted the local bus company to discover why buses were not stopping at the new bus shelter on the Redruth Road and had been informed that they would not stop at a shelter until it had been inspected by Cornwall County Council to ensure that it was safe. The Mayor asked Councillor Phillips if he knew when the shelter was due to be inspected. Councillor Phillips advised that there was still some work to be done to the shelter by Kerrier District Council and believed that Cornwall County Council would carry out the inspection once that was complete.

b) Local District Councillors

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that, together with Councillor Mrs Haycock, she had taken part in a question and answer evening regarding taking good practice into the new Authority. Councillor Mrs Swift had also attended a Standards and Ethics conference in Birmingham and as the Audit Chair had attended the Audit & Finance Groups meeting.

Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that District Council Portfolio Holders had been given a budget of £10,000 for good causes of which very little had been spent. Councillor Mrs Haycock further advised that the Energy Evening had been rescheduled to Tuesday 28th October at Helston School during which Councillor Reynolds would be giving a talk.

237. PUBLIC DISPLAY OF GIFTS FROM ITALY

Councillor Phillips expressed the opinion that the gifts received from Italy currently displayed in the Mayor's Parlour should be on display in a public place where the townsfolk could view them. Councillor Martin advised that the Helston and District Town Twinning Association had discussed this subject at their last meeting and their preference was the Helston Museum. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and

RESOLVED – that subject to the agreement of Kerrier District Council the gifts from Italy be displayed in Helston Museum.

238. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

(1) Bus Services in Helston

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council accept the invitation from First to conduct a joint review of the bus service in Helston along with representatives of County Highways and to suggest inviting representation from Cornwall County Council, Kerrier District Council and the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary.

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

RESOLVED – that Councillors Mrs Swift, Martin and Phillips be appointed as the Council's representatives.

(2) Diversion of Footpath 19

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

RESOLVED – that:

- a) a letter be sent to the Secretary of State to reiterate the reasons for recommending approval and to request that they ignore the objection from the Ramblers Association; and
- b) the letter be copied to the Ramblers Association.

(3) Playbuilder Funding

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the Playbuilder Funding workshop.

(4) Allotments

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the workshop organised by the South Kerrier Alliance.

(5) Unitary Authority Logo

Following a detailed debate this item was noted.

(6) Police Authority Liaison Meeting

This item was noted.

(7) Health & Safety Publications

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

RESOLVED – that the latest editions of Health & Safety Regulations and employee information leaflets be purchased at a total cost of £90.55.

(8) Twinning Gift

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Pryor, and

RESOLVED – that the purchase of a gift for the Mayor of Sasso Marconi at a cost of £15.28 be accepted.

(9) Christmas Lights 2008

On the proposition of Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Phillips, it was

RESOLVED – that:

- a) in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves a £1000 grant towards the Christmas Lights; and
- b) the Christmas Light Committee be given permission to utilise electricity from the Guildhall to power lights in that vicinity.

Councillor Boase declared an interest as a member of the Christmas Lights Committee and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

(10) Christmas Tree Festival

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that the Mayor consult with the Mayoress and if able submit a tree on behalf of Helston Town Council.

The Mayor abstained from the vote.

(11) Civil Parking Enforcement

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Pryor, and

RESOLVED – that a Public Meeting be held to discuss problems relating to illegal parking and civil parking enforcement, and representatives of Civil Parking Enforcement, the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and the PACT Panel be invited to attend.

239. REPORT OF THE TOWN WARDEN

This item was noted.

240. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 208-253 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £17,421.95.

(Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account No. 251.)

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

241. ATTENDANCES AT MEETINGS

Councillor Mrs Matthew informed Members that she had attended a Europe Together meeting. Whilst she had not attended as a representative of the Town Council she was of the opinion that some useful information had been provided and advised that she would produce a written report for circulation.

Councillor Phillips had attended a West Cornwall Healthwatch meeting and the opening of the new classroom block at Parc Eglos School.

Councillor Mrs Swift had attended two Citizens Advice Bureau Cornwall Board meetings, two CALC Executive Meetings and one CALC General Meeting.

The Mayor had met with the new Captain at RNAS Culdrose who was very keen to maintain the existing links.

The Town Clerk together with Councillor Mrs Swift had attended a meeting with representatives from One Cornwall and the Chief Finance Officer at Kerrier District Council on behalf of the Assets Working Party.

The Finance and Committee Assistant advised that she had attended the Fire Warden Training together with the Town Clerk.

242. 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.

243. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

On the proposition of Councillor Pryor, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, 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 items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Councillor Keay left the meeting at 9.32pm

The meeting adjourned at 9.32pm and resumed at 9.35pm

244. COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated). Following a detailed debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council reaffirmed the decision to sell the building.

It was then proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and

RESOLVED – that Mr Gibson be informed and a Press Release issued.

Members then considered two quotations received from architects to draw up plans for the conversion of the Community Centre building. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that pdp Green Consulting Ltd be appointed.

Councillor Phillips declared an interest as he had a business connection with one of the architects and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

245. BANK CHARGES

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (circulated prior to the meeting). On the proposition of Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, it was

RESOLVED – that:

- a) a Savings Account be opened at Barclays bank and £50,000 transferred into it from the Bank of Ireland (1) Account; and
- b) the Town Clerk investigate methods of safeguarding the Council's investments.

Meeting closed at 10.09pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor