

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 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)
Mr C Bowcutt (Town Warden)

216. Prayers

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

217. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Matthew declared an interest in items 5 and 11 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 15) as a Director of the South Kerrier Alliance CIC.

218. 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.

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that she had been contacted by a Manager at Trengrouse House who had raised concerns regarding the Police refusing to attend an incident of anti-social behaviour where a fire had been intentionally started in the grounds. WPC Butcher advised that the advice to telephone the Fire Service would have been from the call handlers based on guidance they had been given and confirmed that she would raise the issue with the Inspector.

Councillor D C Swift requested a Police presence at Kellaway Parc at the beginning or end of the school day to educate the pedestrians on road safety as he was concerned that someone was going get hurt when walking in the road instead of using the pavement.

219. Public Participation

Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she had received a number of queries regarding double yellow lines and asked WPC Butcher if she could confirm the waiting restrictions they imposed. WPC Butcher advised that the Police were no longer involved in the enforcement of double yellow lines and confirmed that she believed it was allowable for a vehicle to stop to drop off a passenger or unload but they could not stay there for a prolonged length of time.

Mr Busby advised that he had visited several towns which had a Town Centre Manager and gave details of their town centre structure and parking arrangements. Mr Busby expressed the wish that one of the Town Centre Manager's projects would be to pedestrianise Meneage Street.

A representative from the National Coastwatch Institution - Bass Point, spoke in support of their grant application and confirmed that it was essential that the balcony be in a good condition as it was heavily used and also formed part of the fire escape from the building.

220. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 19th August 2010 and the Special Full Council Meeting held on 12th August 2010 be approved and signed as a true record.

221. Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 11th August 2010, be received.

222. 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 19th August and 2nd September 2010, be received.

223. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 7th September 2010, be received.

224. Announcements

The Town Clerk informed Members that he had received the certificate for the Town Council's Quality Status Re-accreditation. The Town Clerk further advised that the Keep Helston Tidy Working Party had arranged a litter pick which was taking place the following day at 4pm from the Guildhall.

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

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Councillor Mrs Haycock gave a detailed report during which she made particular mention to the installation of a Number Plate Recognition System to be installed at Recycling Centres to reduce illegal disposal of trade waste and also, her intention to provide a pedestrian crossing in Meneage Street near the Doctors Surgery.

In response to a question Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the installation of the Number Plate Recognition System at the twelve Recycling Centres was expected to cost £200,000 and it was conservatively estimated that it would save £950,000 per year by preventing the illegal disposal of trade waste at the sites. Several Members expressed strong concerns regarding the proposal and suggested that the existing staff could assist with the problem of trade waste disposal. Councillor Mrs Matthew expressed the opinion that the system would be beneficial and the costs would be quickly recouped. Cornwall Councillor Robertson confirmed that the decision for the Number Plate Recognition System had been taken by Cabinet and advised that the problem of trade waste was a very large issue that had to be dealt with as Cornwall Council could not condone an illegal activity. He further advised that the Number Plate Recognition System would not affect anyone who was not doing anything wrong. He added staff safety could be compromised if they were expected to prevent the disposal of illegal trade waste. Councillor Reynolds requested that the Cabinet revisit the decision and consider alternative methods to resolve the issue.

Councillor Mrs Swift spoke on the proposed pedestrian crossing to advise that this was not where a crossing had been requested in an e-mail from a resident to the Town Council. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she had received a number of requests, including a petition, for a crossing in the area she had indicated.

Councillor Devenish advised that the street lights in Clodgey Lane from the junction with Trengrouse Way to Turnpike were not working and expressed concern for highway safety with traffic lights for road works located in the area. Councillor Devenish requested that the Cornwall Councillors present investigate. Councillor Robertson advised that he would take up the issue.

Councillor Robertson gave a detailed report during which he made particular mention to the Tesco planning application to amend planning conditions, repairs to the kennels, a CALC Larger Council's meeting regarding Active Partnering and the St. John's Wood Event. He further advised that he had allocated part of his Highways budget to street lighting for the Bosnoweth footpath leading to Kellaway Parc and confirmed that Cornwall Council were looking to tidy the open space at Carey Parc by grassing it. Several Members expressed their disappointment at the removal of play equipment without replacement at a number of sites, including Carey Parc, and expressed the opinion that the play opportunities in the Town were being reduced. Councillor Robertson agreed that it was sad to see play equipment removed but advised that part of the reason that it was not being replaced at Carey Park was the neighbours did not wish to have new equipment. Councillor Robertson further advised that Play Builder funding had been withdrawn and funding at Cornwall Council was concentrated on the provision of front-line services.

b) Community Network Manager

Mrs C Chadwick provided a detailed report (circulated prior to the meeting) which made particular mention to the Helston Youth Cafe 'Peoples Million' Lottery bid, the Helston & South Kerrier Loyalty Card Scheme and the meeting to discuss the involvement of young people in local decision-making organised on behalf of the Town Council. Mrs Chadwick then updated Members on the progress of the Loyalty Card Scheme and the lottery bid for the Youth Cafe. Mrs Chadwick further advised that she had received a lot of interest from youth groups regarding the youth involvement meeting and confirmed that, at the request of the Town Clerk, she had supplied a list of potential interview questions for the Town Centre Manager's post. Mrs Chadwick also advised that she had received comments from a number of potential candidates stating that the negative publicity had deterred them from applying for the post. In addition, Mrs Chadwick confirmed that she had met with representatives of Business Link and they were keen to meet with the Town Centre Manager regarding a number of retail initiatives.

226. Review of Standing Order 1.27

Councillor Devenish expressed concern that since Standing Order 1.27 had been established, meetings had been forced close after three hours causing items to be deferred to another meeting. Councillor Devenish advised that he did not wish for meetings to continue late into the evening but suggested that the format of the Full Council meeting could be altered with more items considered by Committee's so that the Full Council meeting could comply with Standing Order 1.27. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee review Standing Order 1.27 and report to Full Council on how the Full Council meetings could be streamlined to conform to Standing Order 1.27.

227. Parking for Shoppers in the Town Centre

Councillor Reynolds advised that he was aware that parking was a major issue of concern to members of the public and suggested that the Town Council should investigate ways that a limited amount of free parking could be provided in the town centre. Councillor Thomas advised that one hour's parking was available for 20p in Dowederry in East Cornwall and expressed the opinion that the parking charges should be uniform across the county.

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Cornwall Councillor Robertson to speak on the item.

Councillor Robertson advised that it was not possible to have a county wide standard for parking charges and each car park had to be looked at individually to consider various criteria including its location and the role it carried out in the area.

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be resumed.

A detailed debate ensued during which Councillor Devenish expressed the opinion that the matter should be investigated by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee and include input from the Town Centre Manager when in post. At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by the Mayor, that Councillor Reynolds and the Town Clerk be authorised to contact Cornwall Councillor Wallis and the Community Network Manager to investigate the issue of free parking within the town centre and bring a report back to Full Council.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor D C Swift, that the issue of free parking be referred to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee for investigation. This became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that the issue of free parking be referred to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee for investigation.

228. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Grant Applications

Four grant applications were individually considered.

a) Carleen Community Church Care Centre

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Pryor, that Carleen Community Church Care Centre be given a grant of £750.00.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Devenish, that Carleen Church Community Care Centre be given a grant of £500.00. The Amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 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 expenditure in the sum of £500.00 in respect of a covered corridor and access.

b) Cornwall County Playing Fields Association

On the proposition of Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that no grant be awarded to the Cornwall County Playing Fields Association and that the Town Clerk contact the organisation to explain the reasons why the Council were unable to give financial assistance.

c) National Coastwatch Institution

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

RESOLVED – that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 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 expenditure in the sum of £200.00 in respect of a replacement balcony.

d) Trengrouse Way Area Residents' Association

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Mrs Radford-Gaby, it was

RESOLVED – that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 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 expenditure in the sum of £50.00 in respect of the production of a community newspaper.

(2) Flora Day - Guildhall Decoration

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

RESOLVED – that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 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 expenditure in the sum of £500.00 in respect of Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust.

(3) Mayoral Chain

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

RESOLVED – that the lower pendent of the Mayoral Chain be sent to Thomas Fattorini Ltd at a cost of £30 carriage to enable them to provide a quotation for repairs.

(4) Office Computer

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

RESOLVED – that Members approved the replacement of the computer.

(5) Helston and South Kerrier Loyalty Card

The Town Clerk advised that the request to use the Town Crest had been withdrawn.

(6) Cornwall Council Winter Service Policy – Provision and Maintenance of Salt Bins

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

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council did not take on responsibility for the existing salt bins.

(7) Horse and Jockey Lane - Railings

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Community Payback Scheme be provided with equipment and paint and be asked to refurbish the railings off Horse and Jockey Lane at a maximum cost of £100.00.

(8) Helston & Lizard Community Network – Special Meeting

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

RESOLVED – that Councillor Devenish be authorised to attend the Special Meeting of the Helston & Lizard Community Network regarding the provision of affordable housing.

(9) SLCC Cornwall Branch – Clerks’ Training Day

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the SLCC Clerk’s Training Day.

(10) ‘Listening to Children and Young People’ Conference

This item was noted.

(11) Helston Cattle Market Project Survey

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

RESOLVED – that Members submit individual replies to the South Kerrier Alliance Cattle Market Project survey.

(12) Police Authority Liaison Meeting

This item was noted.

(13) Community Right to Build

This item was noted.

(14) Road Safety

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to the Cornwall Council Division Members enclosing a copy of the e-mail to advise that Members were of the opinion that the suggested crossing was in an inappropriate position and should be located in Meneage Road, and to request that the speed limit in Meneage Road be reviewed.

(15) Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor D C Swift, and

RESOLVED – that Councillor Reynolds be re-elected onto the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee.

(16) Town Guide

It was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, that the Town Guide be included on the Town Council website. This Motion failed and it was therefore

RESOLVED – that the Town Guide would not be included on the Town Council website.

Councillors Mrs Swift, Devenish, Reynolds, D C Swift and Pryor voted for the Motion and therefore voted against the Resolution.

229. Report of the Town Warden

Consideration was given to the Report of the Town Warden (previously circulated). In relation to the Mayor's letter regarding cigarette butts, Members expressed their disappointment with the negative response from some of the licensed premises at a recent Pubwatch meeting. The Town Clerk advised that he would revisit the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices and produce a report.

The Mayor declared an interest in the following item.

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair at 9.55pm.

230. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 173-212 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £17,828.70.

(The Mayor and Councillor Mrs Boase declared an interest in Account No. 179. Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account No. 212.)

It was agreed that the cheques would be signed by Councillor Williams and Councillor Reynolds the following day.

The Mayor resumed the Chair at 9.59pm.

231. Attendance at Meetings

Councillor Mrs Boase had attended a Street Festival meeting, a South Kerrier Alliance Core Meeting and a Bulwark Working Party meeting.

Councillor Mrs Swift circulated a report in Members' folders which advised she had chaired three CALC Executive meetings and a Larger Councils Liaison Group meeting in addition to attending two NALC meetings and a regional meeting.

232. 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.

233. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

234. Helston Community Centre

Members considered a letter from the Helston & District Community Association (circulated prior to the meeting). Following the debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council's Solicitor be instructed to pursue the date for the Court Hearing.

Meeting closed at 10.03pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor