

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON**  
**ON THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

**Councillors:** M J Kenchington (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R J L Boase  
Mrs F N E Boase  
M H Thomas

T Grattan-Kane  
M Benyon  
S L Ramsden

P M Webb  
M P Andrew  
D Willey

**Officers:** Miss A Retallack (Deputy Town Clerk)  
Mr R James (Projects Officer)

**305. Prayers**

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Councillor Andrew.

**306. Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by Councillors Martin, P Williams and Looker.

**307. Absent without apologies**

Councillor R Williams was absent without submitting apologies.

**308. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Benyon declared an interest in item 860 on the payment schedule as a Member of Helston Climate Action Group.

**309. Cornwall Councillors' Reports**

Cornwall Councillor Thomas gave a report during which he made particular mention to:

- His involvement with a number of casework issues;
- An additional consultation for residents of Penrose Road taking place regarding proposed changes to the no parking time period;
- Residents with concerns regarding the new waste and recycling collection service which should be made online to Cornwall Council so that officers were aware of individual issues;
- The Wendron Street Steps works had been pushed to the financial year 2025/26. The site will continue to be monitored and maintained.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas then responded to Members questions.

Cornwall Councillor Foreman gave a report during which he made particular mention to:

- The start of the rollout of the new waste and recycling collection service;
- The work at the Meneage Road crossing, mentioning the bad weather and unmapped services that had led to delays and thanking residents and members of the public for their patience and the Cormac team for their work.

Cornwall Councillor Foreman then responded to Members questions.

### **310. Public Participation**

The Mayor read two emails from members of the public in support of agenda item 13. Members of the public also spoke in support of agenda item 13 on the agenda, including the following points:

- The division of seating in the Council Chamber created a barrier between Councillors and members of the public as well as an “us and them” feeling and the public being excluded.
- The usual arrangement did not make members of the public feel welcome or encourage their involvement in public participation; and
- The usual arrangement did not support engagement on an equal basis.

### **311. Minutes**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 as amended and the minutes of the Special Full Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 be approved and signed as a true record.

**Voting: For – 9, Against – 0, Abstain – 1**

### **312. Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be received.

### **313. Minutes of the Staffing Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be received.

**Voting: For – 9, Against – 0, Abstain – 1**

### **314. Announcements**

The Deputy Town Clerk welcomed Mr Richard James, the Interim Projects Officer, to his first Full Council Meeting. The Mayor also welcomed Mr James and gave his thanks to the outgoing Projects Officer for the work she carried out with expertise over a range of projects.

It was proposed by Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the Council thanked Miss Charlotte Caldwell for her work at Helston Town Council.

**Councillor Grattan-Kane left the meeting at 7.35pm**

**315. Environmental Working Party Update**

Members considered the update on the activities of the Environmental Working Party (circulated prior to the meeting). Councillor Benyon asked Members to forward any feedback to her regarding the format of the update.

**316. Motion by Councillor Benyon**

Councillor Benyon spoke in support of her proposal to trial alternative seating. A detailed debate ensued, at the conclusion of which it was proposed of Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, that Helston Town Council trial holding Full Council meetings around tables in the main area of the Council Chamber rather than in the well seating in order to remove barriers to communication, help the Council to appear more welcoming , reduce the sense of a hierarchy (with members sitting above others) and improve comfort for Members and Officers.

An amendment was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, that:

- a) Helston Town Council trial holding Full Council meetings in the main area of the Council Chamber rather than in the well seating for the Full Council meeting in April 2024 in order to remove barriers to communication and help the Council to appear more welcoming; and
- b) the trial be reviewed at the end of that meeting.

The amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion.

**Voting: For – 5, Against – 4, Abstain – 0**

It was therefore

RESOLVED – that:

- a) Helston Town Council trial holding Full Council meetings in the main area of the Council Chamber rather than in the well seating for the Full Council meeting in April 2024 in order to remove barriers to communication and help the Council to appear more welcoming; and
- b) the trial be reviewed at the end of that meeting.

**Voting: For – 7, Against – 2, Abstain – 0**

**317. Report of the Projects Officer**

This item was noted.

**318. Report of the Town Clerk**

**(1) Christ Derided Painting**

The principle of rehoming the painting was agreed and Members suggested offering the painting to organisations such as Kresen Kernow and art colleges or advertising it to be rehomed.

**(2) D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Events**

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

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the requested fee of £150.00 for Helston Town Band be agreed; and
- b) a maximum budget of £450.00 be agreed for the community cream tea programme.

**Voting: For – 8, Against – 0, Abstain – 1**

**(3) Cornwall Planning Partnership**

This item was noted.

**(4) Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Climate Commission: Call for Commissioners**

This item was noted.

**(5) Beating the Boundaries**

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

RESOLVED – that Beating the Boundaries be moved to Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024.

**Voting: For – 8, Against – 0, Abstain – 1**

**(6) South Kerrier Community Area Partnership (CAP) Action Plan**

This item was noted.

**(7) Cormac Workshop Sessions**

This item was noted.

**(8) Static Guards for Flora Day**

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

RESOLVED – that in accordance with 11.1 iii) of the Council’s Financial Regulations permission was given to waive the need to seek competitive quotations for the provision of static guards for Flora Day 2024 to allow a single organisation (Infinitus Security and Training Ltd) who are also appointed to be appointed to provide the complex security arrangements across the town on Flora Day.

**(9) RSN Rural Market Town Group**

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that further information be circulated to Members by email regarding the benefits received and that Members indicate their preference following this.

**319. Payment of Accounts**

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 776-867 inclusive, as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £86,956.55 be certified for payment.

**Voting: For – 8, Against – 0, Abstain – 1**

**Councillor Benyon asked that her abstention be recorded.**

**Meeting closed at 8.37 pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**