

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2024 AT 7.00 PM

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

R Williams	J Martin	P Webb
R J L Boase	M Benyon	M P Andrew
Mrs F N E Boase	G Looker	D Willey
M H Thomas	W Ramsden	P E Williams

Officers: Miss P J Lavelle (Town Clerk)
Miss A Retallack (Deputy Town Clerk)

345. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Councillor Andrew.

346. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by Councillor Grattan-Kane

347. Cornwall Councillors' Reports

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

- The Listening to You event by Linda Taylor taking place on Wednesday 24th April where representatives of the Cornwall Council new waste collection team would also be present;
- An upcoming meeting involving stakeholders to help find a solution to support the repair of the damaged Leat at Trenear;
- The completion of the legal work for the TROs in Helston North with the final consultation regarding changes to Penrose Road parking restrictions being completed and the regulation period being amended to end at 4pm instead of 6pm;
- Refuse collections for roads in road closure areas would take place on Thursday 9th May instead of on Flora Day whilst all other roads would be collected as normal on 8th May; and
- His pleasure to see the volume of interest in the new Helston Gateway building at their recent consultation event.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas then responded to Members questions.

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

- Cornwall Council decision to commission research into the economic role of grade 3 land in respect to loss of farm land to solar farms;
- Lendology-CIC was administering a scheme set up to allow private residents to apply for loans to fund green home improvements;

- The road surface at the Meneage Road crossing would be resurfaced overnight from 23rd – 25th May. The sandbag bank would remain, but the bags were reinforced and full of seeds so will give the appearance of a bank.

Cornwall Councillor Foreman then responded to Members questions.

348. Public Participation

A member of the public commented that the seating arrangement on trial was approachable and favourable to the usual arrangements and that it was good to see the Council trying something new.

349. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st March 2024 be approved and signed as a true record.

Voting: For – 10, Against – 0, Abstain – 2

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Full Council Meeting held on 26th February 2024 be approved and signed as a true record.

350. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27th March 2024 be received.

351. Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee meeting held on 5th April 2024 be received.

352. Announcements

The Mayor informed members that South Kerrier Alliance were working towards opening the First Floor of the Helston Gateway building by December.

353. Question received pursuant to Standing Order 8.1

The Town Clerk advised that a question had been received from Councillor R J L Boase, seeking an explanation on why the process to replace the bell had taken so long and what arrangements were in place should the bell not be replaced in time for Flora Day.

The Town Clerk responded to provided a detailed breakdown of the complex process required to replace the bell advising that due to the specialist works it had taken time to obtain a selection of quotations as required by the Council's Financial Regulations. She advised that the importance of the bell being in place for Flora Day had been highlighted to all involved in the process and confirmed that the installation date had been set for 1st May following the May Day Flora Rehearsal. The Town Clerk confirmed that damage to the hammer mechanism had also been discovered earlier that week and the company who maintained the Guildhall clock were working to repair it. The Town Clerk then advised that should the bell not be repaired in time for Flora Day she had arranged for the Captain of Helston Bell Tower to ring out the hour at the start of each dance.

354. Report of the Projects Officer

The Town Clerk advised that the Projects Officer had submitted his apologies for the meeting. Members then considered the Project Officer's report (circulated prior to the meeting) and the Town Clerk responded to Members questions.

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

RESOLVED – that it was agreed that a Community Interest Company (CIC) be formed to operate the proposed Community Café and the Town Council commence the process to set up the CIC.

Councillor Webb entered the meeting at 7.38pm

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

RESOLVED – that the decision to use a combination of Accelerator funding, Neighbourhood CIL and Town Vitality funding to bring the match funding up to £50,000 be ratified.

Voting: For – 12, Against – 0, Abstain – 1

The Town Clerk read an email from the Helston Place Shaping Strategy Board requesting the Town Council's agreement with their suggestion to split the accelerator funding between the Cultural Quarter project and place shaping next steps.

Councillor Ramsden declared an interest and left the meeting at 7.52pm.

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Looker, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council supported the Place Shaping Boards suggested division of the Accelerator Funding.

Voting: For – 11, Against – 1, Abstain – 0

Councillor Ramsden returned to the meeting at 8.09pm.

355. Report of the Town Clerk Participatory Budgeting

Following a brief debate, it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Benyon, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a Task and Finish group be created to develop the detail of a specific participatory budgeting process for approval by Full Council

The Mayor (Councillor Kenchington) and Councillors Martin, Benyon, Ramsden and P Williams indicated their interest in being on the Task and Finish Group.

356. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Standing Orders

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

RESOLVED – that the revised standing orders be adopted, as amended, subject to a further review of the Financial Regulations following the publication of the model document.

Voting: For – 12, Against – 1, Abstain – 0

Councillor Ramsden requested that her vote against the proposition be recorded.

(2) Meeting Seating Arrangements

After a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Ramsden, seconded by Councillor Willey, and

RESOLVED – that, other than ceremonial or civic events, all regular Full Council meetings be held in the main area of the Council Chamber.

Voting: For – 7, Against – 4, Abstain – 2

357. Payment of Accounts

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 1 – 82 inclusive, as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £82,969.25 be certified for payment.

358. Report on Attendance at Meetings

A report from Councillor Looker regarding Helston CIC and Councillor Ramsden in relation to the Discover Helston Digital Media Group had previously been circulated. The reports were noted.

359. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

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.

360. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Verbal update from Town Clerk regarding Council Accommodation.

The Town Clerk gave members a verbal update regarding Council accommodation.

Meeting closed at 9.06 pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor