

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON**  
**ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013 AT 7.15 PM**

**Councillors:** J P Radford-Gaby (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams  
Mrs S M E Swift  
R J L Boase  
N J C Devenish

K Reynolds  
D C Swift  
Mrs F N E Boase  
M H Thomas

Miss J A Hornsby  
J Martin

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

**440. Apologies**

An apology for late arrival was received from Councillor Williams due to work commitments.

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

RESOLVED – that the Apology be received and accepted.

**441. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest in Agenda item 12 as a resident of Cross Street adjacent to Penhellaz Hill. Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase also declared an interest in Agenda item 17 as members of an organisation that could potentially receive funding included in the 2013/14 Budget.

Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account No. 417 on the Schedule of Accounts (Agenda item 18).

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest in Account No. 436 on the Schedule of Accounts (Agenda item 18).

**442. Police Matters**

The Town Clerk read a written report on behalf of the Police which included recent crime figures and those for the corresponding period from the year previous.

**443. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors and the Community Network Manager**

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

The Mayor advised that Apologies had been received from Councillor Robertson who was attending a meeting out of the County.

In response to two questions from the previous meeting Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the White Wash Wall on Penhellaz Hill had been repaired and repointed, but not repainted. In respect of the Section 106 funding for play equipment, she advised that the Deed of Modification was not complete for the Willows development which she was pursuing. She confirmed that she wished to discuss the use of the funding from the former Jewson's development at the same time as the use of the funding from the Willows development. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised many people queried whether Scrutiny was effective at Cornwall Council and gave the refusal of a revision to the Registrars Service as an example of Scrutiny having a local benefit. Councillor Mrs Haycock further advised that she had also been dealing with a number of planning and parking issues. Councillor Mrs Haycock then referred to

the traffic issues in Cross Street and Penhellaz Hill to advise that she had a number e-mails on the subject which she was willing to share. She also advised that the issue of sandbags was being discussed by Cornwall Council's Scrutiny Committee and confirmed that Cornwall Council had given out sandbags at St John's and, whilst many had been taken when they were freely available, they were now left strewn over the pavements.

Councillor Devenish queried the nature of the repair to the wall at Penhellaz Hill as the last time the wall required repairs, a road closure had been necessary. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she had received an e-mail that day informing her that the repairs and repointing had been carried out.

Councillor Devenish advised that several months previously he had raised the issue of the lines in the road near St Michaels Church which required repainting, but work had still not been carried out. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the work would be carried out as soon as they were able, confirming that it had to be scheduled in when it was not raining.

Councillor Devenish advised he had seen a sign on the outskirts of St Ives advising drivers to ignore their satellite navigation devices and suggested that a similar sign be placed at the bottom of St John's. He expressed the opinion that satellite navigation systems were directing people up the road and a sign might help the issue advising that this had been suggested previously. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she would investigate the matter.

Councillor Wallis apologised that he had been unable to attend the previous meeting and wished those present a Happy New Year. Councillor Wallis confirmed that there would be no rise in parking charges for the forthcoming year. He further advised that the consultation on the reduced speed limit on the Porthleven Road had concluded and there was an overwhelming response in favour of the reduction. He estimated that the speed limit change should be in place within six months.

#### b) Community Network Manager

Mrs Chadwick updated Members on her report to advise that members of the Youth Cafe were presenting a report on their investigations into a link with the Bissoe cycle project to the Youth Café Board for their consideration. Mrs Chadwick thanked Members and the Press who attended the Citizenship for Life Celebration Event and advised that they were embarking on year three with businesses committing funding to continue the programme. Mrs Chadwick then advised that a Flooding Surgery had been held at Isaac House with representatives from a number of Agencies including the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, the Environment Agency, National Trust and Cory Environmental. She advised that this was the second Surgery to be held and at the first event residents of St. John's had indicated that they were keen to see a Community Resilience Plan produced.

#### **444. Public Participation**

The Applicant spoke in support of Planning Application PA12/11832 which had been referred to Full Council following a tied vote at the Planning Committee meeting and made the following points:

- The existing parking in Borlase Close would not be affected with the final parking space in the road turned around and an additional space added;
- The grassed area was not an open space. The term 'open space' related to the site itself with the highway going up to the site;
- There was no turning area presently, but it was proposed to create a small turning area for the whole road to use within the site;
- Regulations required 50 square meters of amenity space and the proposal provided 50 square meters per unit;
- The site was a dumping area and it had been cleared significantly.

Councillor R J L Boase queried if the road would be adopted by Highways. The Applicant confirmed that Highways had agreed to adopt the road if it was constructed to an adoptable standard.

A member of the public advised that she noted from the previous Minutes, Councillor Robertson had been elected onto the Board of the Helston Business Improvement Partnership (HBIP). She advised that she was a member of HBIP and asked how he had been elected. The Mayor advised that the issue was a HBIP matter not a Town Council issue. The Town Centre Manager advised that if the member of the public contacted him by e-mail he was willing to respond on behalf of the HBIP to clarify the situation.

A member of the public spoke regarding the Epworth Hall to outline the partnership working that had been carried out. He then referred to Agenda item 13 regarding the proceeds of the sale from 3 Penrose Road to commend the Institute at 3 Penrose Road to the Council in addition to other organisations including the Epworth Hall. He then queried the draft budget as it had not been reduced before the Council Tax Support Grant adjustment and asked if any calculations had been carried out if the grant was not received the following year. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had not reduced the expenditure budget and that the reduction to the Precept was the effect of the Council Tax Support Grant confirming that there was no indication on whether or not the grant would be available the following year.

A member of the public asked Members to reconsider Min. No. 423/2012 advising that the access to Windsor Court was hazardous with vehicles exiting the site having only seconds to see an approaching vehicle travelling at 30mph. The Mayor advised that the decision had been made and could not be reversed and the response had been submitted to Cornwall Council. He expressed the opinion that it was unfortunate that the member of the public had not attended the Planning Committee meeting to raise his concerns when the matter was discussed.

Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she was not speaking as a Cornwall Councillor but on behalf of the Heritage Trust to invite all Members to attend the volunteers evening. She then spoke as the Treasurer of the Harvest Fair Association to advise that its AGM would be held on 30<sup>th</sup> January at Isaac House.

**Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest and left the meeting at 7.47pm.**

A number of residents spoke regarding the traffic issues in the Cross Street area and made the following points:

- The traffic was causing damage to the fabric of the road, walls and kerbstones in addition to vibrations and movement in some of the porches along Cross Street;
- The issues were not new and had been experienced for many years;
- Cross Street was full of unique Georgian buildings which could not be replaced;
- There were concerns for the safety of pedestrians with many children using the area to access local schools;
- Local residents were concerned there would be a serious accident;
- Heavy traffic from the industrial estate travelled through the area and it was suggested that this should be more sensibly routed around the town;
- The affect on the street and its residents was more than evident and a solution to redirect at least some of the traffic around the town was sought;
- Cross Street was not appropriate for the current volumes of traffic;
- It was not acceptable to expose children to the traffic volumes and pollution experienced near to Parc Eglos School and Helston Community College;

- The traffic route encouraged people to avoid the heart of the town;
- The problems experienced in Cross Street with traffic movement were not new but the problem was not going away and was actually getting worse;
- An additional problem was that it seemed to be legal to park on the road after 6pm but if vehicles parked on both sides it was not possible to get an emergency vehicle through;
- There was also an issue of people parking on the pavements in Cross Street and Church Street which forced anyone with a pram into the road as there was insufficient room to get past; and
- Residents of Cross Street had previously not been able to decide, if the road was to be made one way, in which direction the traffic should flow so a consensus needed to be reached.

**Councillor Williams entered the meeting at 7.51pm.**

**Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase returned to the meeting at 7.58pm.**

**445. Planning Applications referred due to a tied vote**

- i) **Planning Application PA12/11832**  
**Application Type: Full Application**  
**Construction of 2 dwellings and associated works**  
**22 Borlase Close, Helston**  
**For Struss Developments**

Councillor Devenish visited the application site and gave a presentation with the aid of photographs.

It was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Thomas, that the Town Council recommended refusal of Application PA12/11832 as Members were of the opinion that:

- a) the proposal was an overdevelopment of the site;
- b) the size and design were out of keeping with the neighbouring properties;
- c) there was a potential loss of public open space; and
- d) the access and egress to the site would exacerbate existing parking problems.

This Motion failed.

It was then proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council recommended approval of Application PA12/11832.

**446. Minutes**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012 be approved and signed as a true record.

**Councillor Mrs Boase requested that her abstention from the vote be recorded as she had not been present at the meeting.**

**447. Minutes of the Planning Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013, be received.

**448. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013, be received.

**Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest and left the meeting at 8.29pm.**

**449. Traffic Issues on Penhellaz Hill**

Councillor Reynolds advised that he had not been aware of the residents' petition until it was featured in a local newspaper in December and raised by a resident at the December Full Council meeting. He advised that he had been forwarded copies of e-mails between the Cornwall Council Division Member and residents in which they had queried the cost of a traffic survey as the residents were willing to pay for one to be carried out. He expressed the opinion that, as the Town Council was elected to represent the people of the town, the least the Town Council should do was liaise with Cornwall Council with regards to resolving the issue.

A detailed debate ensued during which it was suggested that the issue was Helston-wide and required a cohesive Traffic Management Plan.

At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Williams, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the Town Clerk write to Cornwall Council Highways Officers to seek a Public Meeting to discuss concerns expressed by Cross Street residents; and
- b) work towards a holistic Traffic Plan for Helston to take account of current and future traffic issues, including Cross Street.

The member of the public who had organised the residents' petition agreed that Helston Town Council could send a copy of the petition to Cornwall Council.

**Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase returned to the meeting at 8.55pm**

**450. Allocation of funds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road**

Councillor Thomas was of the opinion that when the Council had made its decision three years previously to use the proceeds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road to build a new community facility, Helston was a very different place. He advised that there were now a number of new and improved community facilities available within the town and suggested that the funds be made available for community projects and gave examples of the types of projects that could be funded. A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor R J L Boase, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the non-restricted funds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road no longer be ring-fenced for a new community facility; and
- b) those funds then be ring-fenced for community-based projects.

**Councillors Williams, Devenish and D C Swift requested that their vote against the Motion be recorded.**

**451. Sandbags**

Councillor Reynolds advised that he had requested the Motion be included on the Agenda following the recent flooding in the St Johns area stating that he agreed with the local Member of Parliament's disappointment that sandbags were no longer provided by the local Principal Council. He advised that empty sandbags could be purchased at a cost of thirty-two pence each and suggested that the Town Council purchase a stock which would remain with the Town Warden for distribution to residents who met the criteria. A detailed debate ensued during which Councillor Mrs Swift reminded Members that she was on the Management Committee of the Cornwall Community Flood Group and advised that she had made a representation to the Group and they had agreed to provide Helston with two hundred sandbags free of charge.

At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Thomas, that the Town Council purchase three hundred sandbags for distribution to local Council Tax payers living in flood risk areas. The Motion failed.

**452. Report of the Town Centre Manager**

The Town Centre Manager advised that it had been a very productive two weeks and the Helston Business Improvement Partnership was moving swiftly on with the projects.

This item was noted.

**453. Report of the Town Clerk**

**(1) Vacancy**

Nominations were submitted for the vacancy on the Amenities Committee. Following the voting procedure it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor D C Swift be appointed onto the Amenities Committee for the remainder of the civic year.

**(2) Member Co-option**

This item was noted.

**Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting at 9.57pm.**

**454. 2013/14 Budget**

The Council considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) that contained the final draft budget for the Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the draft budget had been considered by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee at its meetings held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and was recommended for approval as set out. He then invited questions.

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

RESOLVED – that the Administration staffing budget be increased by £9,000.

It was also proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Thomas, that the Town Plan budget be further reduced by £2,000 to zero. This Motion failed.

It was then proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Williams, that the budget for Human Resources and Health & Safety Services be deleted. This Motion failed.

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Order 1.28 be suspended to allow the meeting to continue past 10.15pm.

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, that the Civic Hospitality budget be increased by £500 to a total of £1,000. This Motion failed.

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

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the draft budget be approved as amended; and
- b) the Precept for 2013/14 be set at £212,240.

It was then proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that the draft 2013/14 Schedule of Fees and Charges be approved.

**Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase returned to the meeting at 10.19pm.**

**455. Schedule of Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 407-446 as listed (with the exception of Account No. 436) and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £18,303.45.

**Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest and left the meeting at 10.23pm.**

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

RESOLVED – that Account No. 436 be certified for payment in the total sum of £84,650.00.

**Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase returned to the meeting at 10.36pm.**

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

**456. Attendance at Meetings**

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

RESOLVED – that the written report submitted by Councillor Mrs Swift be received.

**457. Items for the next Agenda**

The Mayor requested that Members contact the Town Clerk's office a minimum of ten days prior to the next meeting to place items on the following Full Council Agenda.

**458. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Thomas, 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.

**459. Personnel and Health & Safety Services**

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk on Personnel and Health & Safety Services (circulated prior to the meeting). Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Williams, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the Town Council deferred making a decision at this time;
- b) the Town Clerk obtain references; and
- c) the item be reconsidered at the earliest opportunity.

**Meeting closed at 10.57pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**