

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.15 PM

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

R. Williams
Mrs S.M.E. Swift
P. Phillips
R.J.L. Boase

K. Reynolds
Mrs V.J. Matthew
D.C. Swift
Mrs F.N.E. Boase

R.R. Pryor
M.H. Thomas
J.P. Radford-Gaby

Officers: Mr C. Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P.J. Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)
Mr C. Bowcutt (Town Warden)

345. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Dorothy Noakes.

346. Declarations of Interest

Councillor R.J.L. Boase declared an interest in the Section 137 budget heading of the 2010/11 draft budget (Agenda item 14) as a Member of the Christmas Lights Committee but reserved the right to speak on the subject during public participation.

The Mayor declared an interest in the Mayor's Allowance budget heading of the 2010/11 budget (Agenda item 14).

Councillor Thomas declared an interest in item 8 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 15) as a Staff Governor at Helston Community College.

347. Police Matters

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

348. Public Participation

Mr I Perry thanked the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress for attending the Age Concern Christmas Luncheon and the Mayor for supplying the cream. Mr Perry then wished Members a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Mrs P Woodhouse thanked Councillor Reynolds for his invite to attend the meeting and offered several observations in response to his letter.

Mr R Roberts queried why the Council were including an extra £8000 in the budget for Professional Fees. The Mayor advised that this was a contingency included in the budget as the Helston and District Community Association were pursuing legal action.

Mr D Gibson, Chairman of the Helston & District Community Association, asked if the Town Council's offer to sell the community centre building to the Helston & District Community Association was exclusive to the Association or if the building was available for sale to other organisations. Councillor Reynolds confirmed that the offer to sell the building was exclusive to the Helston & District Community Association.

Mr M Upton, Chairman of the Epworth Hall Management Committee, asked what would happen to the building if the Helston & District Community Association were not responsible for it. The Mayor advised that the building would be sold.

Councillor R.J.L. Boase spoke regarding the reduction in the draft budget for a grant towards Christmas Lights. He advised that the Christmas Lights Committee intended to change to LED lights the following year which would reduce electricity costs dramatically. The grant would assist with the replacement of the lights and cutting the budget could reduce the replacement which in turn would affect the reduction in the cost of electricity. The Mayor advised that the grant had been increased in previous years to enable the Christmas Lights to be built up. The Mayor confirmed that support was not being withdrawn from the Christmas Lights and in addition to a grant electricity was being donated to power the lights in the vicinity of the Guildhall.

Mr Upton queried if savings from the Community Centre Maintenance Grant could be put into a disabled parking budget. The Mayor advised that this would not be possible as the budget heading for the Maintenance Grant had been set to zero.

349. Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was
RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 19th November 2009 be approved and signed as a true record.

Councillor D.C. Swift abstained from the vote as he had not been present at the meeting.

350. Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meetings held on the 12th November and 3rd December 2009, be received.

351. Minutes of the Planning Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, it was
RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 19th November and 3rd December 2009, be received.

352. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Pryor, it was
RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 26th November 2009, be received.

353. Announcements

The Mayor wished Members a Merry Christmas.

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

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Robertson and Councillor Wallis had given their apologies but both had provided a written report which was circulated in Members' folders.

Councillor Mrs Haycock gave a report during which she referred to the Cornwall Council budget, her work with the residents of St. Johns regarding flooding and discussions with the residents of Cross Street. Councillor Mrs Haycock then expressed her disappointment with the response from the Boundary Committee.

b) Community Network Manager

The Town Clerk advised that an apology had been received from Mrs Chadwick and a copy of her written report had been circulated with the Agenda.

355. Helston Kennels and Leats

Councillor Reynolds gave some background information on the Helston Kennels and Leats and requested Members' support to have the Kennels and Leats listed in their entirety, and to contact the Environment Agency regarding the rights and responsibilities of riparian owners. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Radford-Gaby, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council:

- a) apply to English Heritage for the existing Listing to be amended to include the Leats and Kennels in their entirety; and
- b) contact the Environment Agency to request what further steps it was willing to take to enforce the law on riparian owners responsibilities to maintain the Leats.

Councillor Phillips declared an interest in this item as the Leat flowed through a family member's property and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

Councillor Williams abstained from the vote.

356. 2010/11 Budget

The Council considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) that contained the final draft budget for the year to 31st March 2011.

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the first draft had been considered by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee at its meeting held on 11th November 2009 and was recommended for approval as set out. He then invited questions.

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

RESOLVED – that the budget for the Town Plan be reduced from £10,000 to £1,000.

Councillor Williams, D.C. Swift and Pryor voted against the motion.

On the proposition of Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Thomas, it was
RESOLVED – that a budget of £500 be created to engage with the Community Payback
Scheme.

It was then proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and
RESOLVED – that:

- a) the 2010/11 budget be approved subject to the above amendments; and
- b) the Precept for 2010/11 be set at £188,670.

It was further proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew,
and

RESOLVED – that the Schedule of Fees and Charges be approved as set out.

357. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Helston & Lizard Community Network Panel

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, that
Councillor N.J.C. Devenish be nominated as the Town Council's representative on the Helston
& Lizard Community Network Panel. It was further proposed by Councillor Williams,
seconded by Councillor Pryor, that Councillor Mrs Swift be nominated as the Town Council's
representative. Following a vote it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor N.J.C. Devenish be nominated as the Town Council's
representative on the Helston & Lizard Community Network Panel.

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

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs Swift be nominated as the Town Council's substitute
representative on the Helston & Lizard Community Network Panel.

(2) Public Seat

This item was noted.

(3) Planning Training

It was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that the Planning Training be organised and additional places offered to local
Town Council's.

(4) Play Committee

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

RESOLVED – that Councillor Thomas be appointed onto the Play Committee.

(5) Temporary Road Closure

This item was noted.

(6) Office Closure

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and
RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk’s Office close at 12.00 noon on Christmas Eve.

(7) Helston Welfare Trust

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Phillips, it was
RESOLVED – that Councillor Williams be re-elected onto the Helston Welfare Trust Board of
Trustees for a further four years.

(8) Helston Community College

It was proposed by Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew,
and

RESOLVED – that Councillor Reynolds be nominated as the Town Council’s representative to
meet with representatives of the College Governors and Senior Staff once a term.

It was further proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs
Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council supported the suggestion of a representative from the
Town Council being a Local Authority Member of the Board of Governors.

(9) Electoral Review of Cornwall: Final Recommendations

This item was noted with disappointment.

(10) Internal Audit

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

RESOLVED – that Councillors Mrs Swift and Reynolds be nominated to conduct an internal
audit.

(11) Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Control

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Williams, that the
Mayor and Councillor Pryor conduct a review of the effectiveness of internal controls.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor
Reynolds that the Mayor and Councillor Mrs Boase conduct the review of the effectiveness of
internal controls. The amendment was carried and became the substantive motion and it was

RESOLVED – that the Mayor and Councillor Mrs Boase conduct the review of the effectiveness
of internal controls.

The Mayor and Councillor Mrs Boase abstained from the vote.

(12) Phoenix Project

This item was noted.

(13) Cornwall Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2010

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

RESOLVED – that consideration of the draft Cornwall Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2010 be delegated to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee scheduled to take place on 13th January 2010.

358. Report of the Town Warden

Councillor D.C. Swift queried the insurance implications of forming a Junior Street Warden section. The Town Warden advised that he was at the very early stages of his investigations and would be reporting back to the Town Council when he had sufficient information.

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

RESOLVED – that this item be noted with thanks.

The Mayor declared an interest in the following item.

Councillor Mrs Swift took the Chair at 9.02pm

359. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 296-330 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £14,396.53.

(The Mayor and Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account Nos. 310 and 330 respectively. Councillor R.J.L. Boase declared an interest in Account Nos. 315, 325 and 329)

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

The Mayor resumed the Chair at 9.03pm

360. Attendances at Meetings

Councillor Mrs Boase had attended a Bulwark Road Working Group Meeting.

Councillor D.C. Swift had attended the Citizen Advice Bureau Annual Meeting.

Councillor Mrs Matthew had attended an induction as a Governor of Nansloe School.

Councillor Phillips had attended a Loe Pool Management Forum meeting and advised that he would produce a report for Members.

Councillor Mrs Swift had attended three Citizen Advice Bureau meetings, the National Association of Local Council's Conference, several meetings of the Cornwall Association of Local Council's and a West Cornwall Hospital Public Meeting together with Councillor Phillips.

The Town Clerk had attended the South West Wardens Regional Meeting together with the Town Warden and gave a brief report.

361. 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.

362. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, 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.

363. Helston Community Centre

Members consider correspondence from the Council's solicitor which was noted.

Meeting closed at 9.11pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor