

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2013 AT 7.15 PM

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

R Williams	Miss J A Hornsby	L C W Harris
R J L Boase	J Martin	M Knight
Mrs F N E Boase	M Upton	Mrs N Roberts
M H Thomas	Mrs G Geer	

Officers: Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P J Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)
Mr M Searle (Town Centre Regeneration Officer)

264. Presentation on Helston Food Bank

The Mayor welcomed Mrs R McGurk from the Helston Food Bank who gave a presentation on the aims of the Food Bank and details of its activities. Mrs McGurk then responded to Members' questions.

265. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

a) Declarations of Interest

Councillors R J L Boase, Mrs Boase, Upton, Mrs Geer and Mrs Roberts declared an interest in item 6 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 18). Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase also declared an interest in Agenda item 15. Councillor R J L Boase advised that both he and Councillor Mrs Boase had submitted a request for a dispensation regarding the South Kerrier Heritage Trust and if granted they would take part in the debate but not vote on those items.

Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account No. 287 on the Schedule of Accounts for Payment (Agenda item 16).

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest in Account No. 268 and 285 on the Schedule of Accounts for Payment (Agenda item 16).

Councillor Thomas declared an interest in Account No. 285 on the Schedule of Accounts for Payment (Agenda item 16).

Councillor Martin declared an interest in Account No. 268 on the Schedule of Accounts for Payment (Agenda item 16).

Councillor Upton declared an interest in Account No. 279 on the Schedule of Accounts for Payment (Agenda item 16).

Councillor Knight declared an interest in Account No. 288 on the Schedule of Accounts for Payment (Agenda item 16).

b) Requests from Members for Dispensations

The Town Clerk advised that requests for a dispensation had been received from Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase to allow them to speak and vote on matters relating to the South Kerrier Heritage Trust.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council awarded Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase a dispensation, for the term of the current Council or their term as Trustees whichever was sooner, to remain in meetings, speak and vote on matters relating to the South Kerrier Heritage Trust.

266. Police Matters

The Mayor extended a welcome to PCSO Rogers who presented a detailed report which included recent crime figures and those for the corresponding period from the year previous.

In response to a question PCSO Rogers advised that the Police had some logs regarding street drinking which they were trying to address but advised that they had not received sufficient reports to indicate that there was a persistent problem.

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

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

The Town Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock and Cornwall Councillor Wallis who were out of the county on Cornwall Council business.

Cornwall Councillor Martin thanked Mrs McGurk and those involved in the Helston Food Bank for all their work. Cornwall Councillor Martin then gave a report during which he advised that the report on Helston Community College was being considered by the Minister for Schools and briefly referred to the problem of bed blocking at Community Hospitals.

b) Community Network Manager

The Mayor advised that Mrs Hardy had provided a written report and requested that as she had been unable to attend any questions be forwarded to the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk advised that he regularly met with Mrs Hardy and confirmed that she also regularly met with the Town Centre Regeneration Officer. The Town Clerk advised that as Thursday's were not a normal working day for Mrs Hardy she found it difficult to attend the meetings but confirmed that if there was an issue to discuss that she was specifically involved in she would make every effort to attend.

268. Public Participation

A Trustee for Helston Museum spoke in support of the joint funding bid to advise why the funding was required by the Museum.

A Trustee from the Epworth Hall spoke in support of the joint funding bid to outline the requirements for disabled access to the building.

A representative of the Cornubian Arts and Science Trust (CAST) spoke in support of the joint funding bid to express the opinion that it was unusual to have a joint initiative with three organisations that were so committed to the project.

269. Minutes

For clarity Councillor Upton advised that in respect of funding for the First World War Centenary Councillor Mrs Haycock had provided information on sources of funding for the event.

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 19th September 2013 be approved subject to the above amendment and signed as a true record.

270. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 19th September and 3rd October 2013, be received.

271. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 26th September 2013, be received and the recommendation accepted.

272. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Knight, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 8th October 2013, be received.

273. Notes of the Licencing Consultative Group

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

RESOLVED – that the Notes of the Licencing Consultative Group meeting held on the 26th September 2013, be received and the recommendations accepted.

274. Announcements

The Mayor reminded Members that his Charity Ball was being held on Saturday 9th November 2013 and confirmed that his two charities for this year were the Epworth Hall and Helston Museum.

275. Re-allocation of the proceeds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road

Councillor Knight spoke on the allocation of the proceeds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road to remind Members that they were there to represent the people of Helston and the same people responding to the Town Plan Survey Questionnaire had indicated that they wished for existing community facilities to be upgraded. She advised that the money was currently ring fenced for a new community centre but the Town Plan Survey Working Party had expressed the opinion that this was unlikely to be attainable in the short to medium term but felt that upgrading existing community facilities could be taken forward immediately. Councillor Knight referred to the restriction on the use of a portion of the proceeds for the purposes of science and advised that the dictionary definition was wide ranging. Councillor Knight advised that by coincidence a joint proposal had been received for consideration later in the meeting and expressed the hope that Members would have the civic wisdom and courage to clear the way for open debate by freeing up all the proceeds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road for the use of community projects.

A detailed debate ensued during which the benefits and disadvantages of releasing the proceeds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road were considered. During the debate the Mayor advised that the Assets Working Party had been working on a proposal for a new Community Centre and advised that a proposal from a local organisation to work in partnership was expected in the near future. The Mayor expressed the opinion that, whilst he was not against the joint project, he felt that Members should have all the information before them to enable them to make an informed decision. At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Knight, seconded by Councillor Martin, that all the proceeds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road be un-ringfenced and made available for community projects. On the second vote of the Mayor the Motion failed.

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase left the meeting prior to the vote at 8.17pm and returned to the meeting at 8.21pm.

276. Problem with Rats in the Town Centre

Councillor Mrs Geer expressed concern that there were increased sightings of rats in the town centre. She advised that she believed in the past Cornwall Council had baited the drains but understood that this was no longer taking place. She expressed the opinion the Town Council should contact Cornwall Council to demand that Cornwall Council re-start the baiting of the drains. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Williams, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk contact Cornwall Council to obtain information and costs for the baiting of the drains.

277. Report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer

The Town Centre Regeneration Officer advised that posters and leaflets for the consultation event had been circulated. He further advised that he had circulated a revised questionnaire to the Town Plan Survey Working Party for their consideration and he had been in consultation with a private owner regarding Peacock's Lane.

278. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Website

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, it was

RESOLVED – that Councillors R J L Boase, Thomas and Martin be appointed on to the Website Working Party.

(2) CALC Larger Councils Conference

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk and Councillor Miss Hornsby be authorised to attend the CALC Larger Councils Conference.

(3) Trengrouse Way Public Conveniences

The Town Clerk updated Members on the proposal to adopt the Trengrouse Way Public Conveniences. Following a brief debate this item was noted.

(4) Guildhall Flora Day Decorations

On the proposition of Councillor Knight, seconded by Councillor Mrs Roberts, it was

RESOLVED – that £500.00 be donated to the Children’s Hospice South-West on behalf of Mr Steve Pascoe.

(5) Helston Jobcentre Plus

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Upton, and

RESOLVED – that the Mayor write a letter to the Devon, Cornwall & Somerset District Manager to re-iterate Members’ concerns.

(6) Proposal for Coordinated Development and Promotion of Helston

As the ring-fenced funds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road were not released (Min. No.275/2013) this item was not considered.

279. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 242 - 291 excluding Account Nos. 268, 279, 285, 287 and 288 as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £44,501.77.

Councillors Williams, R J L Boase, Mrs Boase, Thomas, Martin, Upton and Knight declared an interest and left the meeting at 8.59pm.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 268, 279, 285, 287 and 288 be certified for payment in the total sum of £866.35.

Councillors Williams, R J L Boase, Mrs Boase, Thomas, Martin, Upton and Knight returned to the meeting at 9.01pm.

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

280. Attendance at Meetings

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, it was
RESOLVED – that the written report submitted by the Town Clerk be received.

281. 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.

Councillor Upton requested that an item be included on the Agenda to place plaques on Town Council assets.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor