

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.00 PM

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

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

J Martin
T Grattan-Kane
M Benyon
D Willey

M P Andrew
S Greet

Officers: Miss P J Lavelle (Town Clerk)
Mr R James (Projects Officer)
Ms A Harris (Communications Officer)

154. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Councillor Andrew.

155. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted by Councillor Webb.

156. Absent

Councillors P Williams and Yates were absent without apology.

157. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Martin declared an interest in item 2 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda Item 18) as a Director of Helston CIC.

158. Cornwall Councillors' Reports

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

- Motions approved by Full Council regarding E-cigarettes & vapes, winter fuel payment cuts and fairer funding for SEND services;
- The roll out of the 20mph speed limits with stakeholder meetings in December;
- An update on the Community Area Partnership (CAP) meeting;
- The issue with the road sign raised by Councillor R Williams being fixed; and
- Issues with parking and road safety near Nansloe School.

Cornwall Councillor Foreman then expressed his disappointment with the findings of the Beating the Bounds report. Following which Councillor Foreman responded to Members questions.

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

- The Newquay Airport proposals which have been scrutinised and the subsequent Motion of no confidence in the Leader which has been triggered by an apparent lack of transparency regarding the issue;
- The cost of school transport which was beginning to fall due to the work of a consultancy which specialises in transport cost reduction;
- Traffic issues near St Michaels School with a further attempt to appoint a school crossing patrol officer;
- The work by volunteers to keep the water flowing in the kennels; and
- The planned introduction of a 20mph speed limit on roads in Helston during the following year advising that he anticipated this change would affect all residential streets as well as the central roads where significant numbers of homes and businesses directly accessed the road.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas then responded to Members questions.

159. Public Participation

Two members of the public spoke to express their concerns regarding the proposed changes to Beating the Boundaries advising that there had been much public discussion and feelings were running high. It was noted that health & safety was a concern, and the unevenness of the ground was acknowledged stating this was a feature of a natural environment. It was confirmed that as a landowner for one of the stones one of the members of public was willing to make adjustments to the ground levels in that area. It was noted that concerns with safeguarding had been raised but one of the participating schools did not have a problem, so they did not believe this was a concern. It was highlighted that no injury had occurred to date, and they believed the risk was minimal.

A representative of Helston CIC spoke in support of their request for financial assistance to underwrite the Discover Helston Magazine to improve resilience and reducing the potential of last-minute cancellation.

160. Minutes

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Resolution for Min. No. 130 (1) b) xx)/ 2024 should record a grant of £300.00.

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th September 2024 be approved, subject to the above amendment, and signed as a true record.

161. Matters Arising

Councillor Thomas queried if the Town Clerk had received confirmation on whether the formation of a joint Committee with Wendron Parish Council regarding the maintenance of the

Kennels and Leats would be feasible. The Town Clerk confirmed that she was still investigating the proposal.

162. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 26th September 2024 be received.

163. Minutes of the Staffing Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Grattan-Kane, seconded by Councillor Willey, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Staffing Committee meeting held on 30th September 2024 be received.

Voting: For – 10, Against – 0, Abstain – 1

164. Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning & Licensing Committee meeting held on 3rd October 2024 be received.

Voting: For – 10, Against – 0, Abstain – 1

165. Beating the Boundaries

Members considered the report by the Town Clerk regarding the Beating the Boundaries Ceremony (circulated prior to the meeting), which contained legal advice that the Ceremony should not include the lifting of individuals and confirmation that based on the legal advice it was not covered by the Council's insurance policy.

A detailed debate ensued during which each Member had the opportunity to express their views on the matter. At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Andrew, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) Council staff were not obliged to be involved in the lifting at the Beating the Boundaries events; and
- b) the matter be deferred to the December Full Council meeting to allow for further conversations with the schools and other insurance companies as well other groups who were in a position to take over the organisation of the event.

Councillor R J L Boase left the meeting at 8.35pm and returned to the meeting at 8.37pm.

166. Portrait of King Charles III

Councillor Thomas outlined the history of the discussion of the portrait confirming that it had been agreed that a portrait of King Charles III should be displayed at the Guildhall (Min. No. 127/ 2024). Councillor Thomas confirmed that the Council would need to purchase a copy of the portrait and needed to decide how to fund it. The Town Clerk confirmed the prices for an official print. Councillor R J L Boase, the Mayor (Councillor Kenchington) and Councillor Greet agreed to fund the purchase and framing of the portrait between them.

It was therefore proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that the Council purchased an official mounted print of King Charles III to be framed locally to be funded by Councillor R J L Boase, the Mayor (Councillor Kenchington) and Councillor Greet.

Voting: For – 7, Against – 0, Abstain – 4

167. Report of the Projects Officer

Members considered the Report of the Projects Officer (circulated prior to the meeting). This item was noted.

168. Report of the Communications Officer

Members considered the Report of the Communications Officer (circulated prior to the meeting). The Communications Officer then responded to Members questions.

The Mayor expressed his thanks to the Communications Officer for all she was doing.

169. Financial Regulations

Members considered a Report by the Town Clerk regarding the updated Model Financial Regulations for Parish and Town Council's (circulated prior to the meeting). The Town Clerk confirmed that the draft Financial Regulations had been reviewed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee and were recommended to Council for approval and adoption.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the draft Financial Regulations (as presented) be approved and adopted by the Council and included as an appendix to Standing Orders.

170. Report of the Town Clerk**(1) Participatory Budgeting**

It was proposed by Councillor Benyon, seconded by Councillor Willey, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Council agreed to proceed with the Participatory Budgeting proposal developed by the Participatory Budgeting Task & Finish Group.

Councillor Martin declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting at 9.00pm.

(2) Discover Helston Magazine

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by the Mayor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that this item be deferred to the Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting in October as part of the Council's budget considerations.

Councillor Martin returned to the meeting at 9.05pm.

(3) Cornwall Council Framework for Leisure Consultation

This item was noted.

(4) 20mph Speed Limit

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by the Mayor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Councillor Grattan-Kane be appointed as the Council's representative together with the Town Clerk at the pre-consultation stakeholder meeting.

(5) Devolution for Cornwall

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Grattan-Kane, seconded by Councillor Willey, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be given delegated authority to agree the endorsement of a statement supporting devolution to Cornwall alone.

171. Payment of Accounts

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, it was

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 422- 482 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £54,023.61 be certified for payment.

Voting: For – 10, Against – 0, Abstain – 1

Meeting closed at 9.27 pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor

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