

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2008 AT 7.15 P.M.

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

Councillors:

R. Williams	R.J.L. Boase	Mrs F.N.E. Boase
Mrs S.M.E. Swift	K. Reynolds	R. R. Pryor
N.C. Martin	Mrs V.J. Matthew	
P. Phillips	D.C. Swift	

Officers: Mr C. Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P. J. Lavelle (Finance and Committee Assistant)
Mr C. Bowcutt (Town Warden)

316. PRAYERS

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

317. APOLOGIES

The Town Clerk advised that he had received no apologies but confirmed that due to the closure of the Guildhall it was likely that there could have been communication difficulties.

318. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Matthew declared a personal interest in item 3 of the Town Clerk's Confidential Report (Agenda item 21) as a Member of the South Kerrier Alliance.

319. POLICE MATTERS

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

320. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr I Perry thanked the Deputy Mayoress for attending the Age Concern Christmas Luncheon and requested the provision of two disabled parking spaces outside the Chapel in Coinagehall Street. Mr Perry then wished everyone present a Merry Christmas.

321. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th November 2008 be approved and signed as a true record.

322. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 20th November and 4th December 2008, be received.

323. MINUTES OF THE POLICY, FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 27th November 2008, be received.

324. 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 Special meetings held on the 20th November and 9th December 2008, be received.

325. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and his staff for their assistance during the closure of the Guildhall due to asbestos contamination. The Town Clerk then updated Members on the latest situation.

326. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

a) Local County Councillors

Councillor Phillips advised that the plans for a bus shelter in Coinagehall Street were out for public consultation, that two Fire Officers from Helston had qualified as co-responders and Newquay Airport would re-open on Saturday 20th December.

Councillor Mrs Lyne advised that a lot of time was being spent preparing the Unitary Authority budget which would increase by approximately 2%. She further advised that she had spent a lot of time on planning and expressed the opinion that the Boundary Committee's decision not to include part of Helston with Meneage was a good idea. Mrs Lyne then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

b) Local District Councillors

Councillor Mrs Haycock informed Members that at the last Kerrier Full Council meeting she had moved a motion that the extra VAT money be donated to charity and she hoped that this would continue with the new Council. She further advised that the Application on the site of the garages at Shute Hill had been refused by Kerrier District Council and PCSO's were shortly going to be given permission to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling.

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that the seven Audit Chairs had met with the Audit Commission to discuss how the accounts should be closed and what risks there were to the new Authority. She had also taken part in the Finance and Performance Group as Chair of Audit together with Councillor Mrs Lyne and Councillor Clayton. Councillor Mrs Swift further advised that she had been involved in the interviews for the posts of Community Network Manager, taken part in a Vision, Value & Culture session and had attended the last carol service at Kerrier District Council.

327. SEARCHING OF AN MP'S PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE

Councillor Reynolds expressed concern that an MP's Parliamentary Office was searched by the Police without a search warrant. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to the Prime Minister to express the Council's concerns.

328. 2009/10 BUDGET

The Council considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) that contained the final draft budget for the year to 31st March 2010.

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 27th November 2008 and was recommended for approval as set out. He then invited questions.

There being no questions, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the 2009/10 budget be approved as set out; and
- b) the Precept for 2009/10 be set at £170,640.

It was further proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

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

329. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

(1) Bus Shelter

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

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to Cornwall County Council to enquire if funding was available for a bus shelter in Godolphin Road under their Green Travel Policy.

(2) Helston Footpath 19

This item was noted.

(3) South West Employers

and

(4) Essentials of Employment Law

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and

RESOLVED – that these item be deferred until the next meeting.

(5) Lockable Paper Bin

After a short debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and

RESOLVED – that no further action be taken.

(6) Code of Conduct Training

Councillor R.J.L. Boase provisionally agreed to attend the training on Tuesday 27th January 2009 and advised that he would confirm.

The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to write to Councillor Keay regarding the training.

(7) Coronation Park Café

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by the Mayor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to Mr Walsh to re-iterate the Councils’ concerns.

(8) Installation of Solar Panels on the Guildhall Roof

Councillor Reynolds informed Members that the solar panels would not be visible and expressed the opinion that the Council should continue to pursue this matter. He further advised that he was willing to continue making investigations on the Council’s behalf. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council continue to pursue the installation of Solar Panels on the Guildhall Roof.

(9) Electoral Review of Cornwall – Draft Recommendations

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended a One Cornwall meeting along with Councillor Mrs Swift and explained that if the Council objected to the proposals of the Boundary Committee it had to submit an alternative proposal that met with the Boundary Committee’s criteria.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write a letter to Cornwall County Council’s Senior Research and Information Officer to advise that the Town Council objected to the Boundary Committee’s proposal for Helston and that it would formulate an alternative proposal early in the New Year.

(10) Continental Market

It was proposed by Councillor D.C. Swift, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and

RESOLVED – that this item be referred to the Amenities Committee.

(11) Temporary Road Closure

This item was noted.

330. REPORT OF THE TOWN WARDEN

Following a brief debate this item was noted.

The Mayor declared an interest in the following item.

Councillor Mrs Swift took the Chair at 8.20pm.

331. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

On the proposition of Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Phillips, 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 £25,343.77.

(The Mayor declared an interest in Account No. 310. Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account No. 328 and Councillor Boase in Account Nos. 315 and 322.)

It was agreed that the Cheques would be signed by Councillors Williams and Phillips.

The Mayor resumed the Chair at 8.27pm

332. ATTENDANCES AT MEETINGS

Councillor Mrs Boase had attended a South Kerrier Alliance meeting.

Councillor Mrs Swift had attended three Citizens Advice Bureau Board meetings, two CALC Executive meetings and an Electoral Review meeting

The Town Clerk had attended the Electoral Review meeting.

The Finance and Committee Assistant had attended the ‘Paying your Employees’ training organised by HM Revenue and Customs.

333. 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.

334. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

On the proposition of Councillor Pryor, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, 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 items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

335. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

1. Fixed Wire Testing

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor R.J.L. Boase, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that TEE Limited complete the required work to issue the Fixed Wire Certificate.

2. Possession of Helston Community Centre

Councillor Reynolds gave Members an update following which it was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Pryor, and

RESOLVED – that the Council’s solicitor write to the Charity Commission.

3. Market Building

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

RESOLVED – that the Mayor and Councillor Reynolds attend a meeting on behalf of the Council regarding the proposed market building on the former Cattle Market site.

Meeting closed at 8.46pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor