

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 18TH JULY 2013 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: M H Thomas (Deputy Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams

J Martin

L C W Harris

R J L Boase

M Upton

M Knight

Mrs F N E Boase

Mrs G A Geer

Mrs N Roberts

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

124. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillor Radford-Gaby (Town Mayor) and Councillor Miss Hornsby who both had work commitments.

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

RESOLVED – that the Apologies be received and accepted.

125. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

a) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

b) Requests from Members for Dispensations

The Town Clerk advised that a request for a dispensation had been received from Councillor Knight to allow her to speak and vote on matters relating to the Helston Business Improvement Partnership (HBIP). Councillor Knight was a member of the HBIP but was of the opinion that it would be in the public interest to remain in the room, participate in meetings and vote.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council award Councillor Knight a dispensation, until the May 2014 Annual Meeting, to remain in meetings, speak and vote on matters relating to the Helston Business Improvement Partnership.

The Town Clerk advised that a request for a dispensation had also been received from Councillor Thomas to allow him to speak and vote on matters relating to the Helston Community College. Councillor Thomas was a member of College staff, but was of the opinion that it would be in the public interest to remain in the room, participate in meetings and vote.

It was proposed by Councillor Knight, seconded by Councillor Upton, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council award Councillor Thomas a dispensation, for the term of the current council, to remain in meetings, speak and vote on matters relating to the Helston Community College.

126. Police Matters

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

Councillor Williams expressed concern with the number of vehicles for sale in lay-bys asking who was responsible for resolving the issue. WPC Butcher advised that she believed it was the responsibility of Trading Standards and the Police and confirmed she would investigate and report back.

Councillor R J L Boase expressed concern regarding the condition of the Porthleven Road which had lost the top dressing in the recent hot weather. WPC Butcher advised that this was not an issue the Police could resolve but indicated that she could report the matter to Cornwall Council's Highways Department.

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

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she had been on leave but had addressed all Members' concerns from the previous meeting before she had left. Councillor Mrs Haycock informed Members that, whilst previously the Local Members had a £9,000 budget for highways works in previous years, there was no budget available in the current year. She advised that the Community Chest Grant budget of £3,000 continued to be available for grants between £100 and £1,000. Councillor Mrs Haycock then requested details of the Porthleven Road affected by the hot weather.

In response to a question Councillor Mrs Haycock indicated that she had contacted Coastline Housing to request details of the parking proposals for the Beacon Parc area and advised that she hoped they would consult with the Town Council. She further advised that she believed the proposals would require planning permission. Councillor Mrs Haycock confirmed that she had not yet commented on the proposal but had concerns with increased volume and speed of traffic.

In response to a question regarding the cut of funding for the proposed building works at Helston Community College, Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that Cornwall Council would be putting a Press Statement together on the matter and hoped to work to a solution.

In response to concerns that the recent traffic survey work within the town did not appear to monitor Cross Street, Church Street and St John's, Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that there would be a report on the traffic survey results to date at the Helston Town Framework meeting the following week expressing the opinion that she would be surprised if the area mentioned was not included in the survey as it had been specifically requested.

The Town Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cornwall Councillor Wallis who had another commitment.

b) Community Network Manager

Mrs Chadwick advised that she had attended the meeting to thank the Town Council for its support over the last four years. Mrs Chadwick further advised that Cornwall Councillor Wallis had been in contact with the Head of Service to confirm if she was permitted to spend one day a month to work on the Helston Youth Cafe and this had been agreed in principle.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Chadwick for all her work advising that her contribution had been greatly valued.

In response to a question Mrs Chadwick advised that Community Network Managers were not allowed to claim overtime and attending evening meetings was normally goodwill.

128. Public Participation

A member of the public expressed disappointment that there was no official representative of Helston Town Council at the Armed Forces Day held in Falmouth. She advised that she understood that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were unable to attend but confirmed that she was aware that Members would have stepped in if requested. The Chairman advised that her comments were noted confirming that the Mayor had wanted to attend but had been taken ill during the night before.

A member of the public advised that, whilst he had been critical of Councillor Mrs Haycock in the past, he appreciated that she attended the meetings and listened to the concerns raised. He then expressed his dismay that the money for the College was no longer available advising that a lot of people had done a lot of work and the situation needed to be resolved and the money found. He then referred to the sale of Helston Business Park by informal tender to express the opinion that this was not the way public funds should be dealt with and asked the Deputy Mayor to contact all Cornwall Councillors to stop the sale. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she was aware of the sale and that it was not Cornwall Council land.

A representative of the Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors from Helston Community College thanked Councillor Wallis and Mr Doughty from Cornwall Council for visiting the College the previous Thursday to break the news regarding the withdrawal of funding. He advised that in the recent hot weather they had students studying in temperatures of 32°C, as the windows in 'C' block were screwed up, which was not acceptable. He confirmed that Helston Community College was the oldest secondary school in the County and they would continue to fight for the improvements.

A member of the public thanked a former Councillor for continuing to show an interest in Town Council meetings. He then referred to an item later on the agenda advising that whilst he was Cornish he did not agree with the use of the Cornish language.

A member of the public spoke regarding the Cornish language to advise that it was a way for Cornwall to stand out from the rest of England. He suggested that the Town Council support the language where possible and affordable, confirming that it need not involve the complete translation of every document. He advised that several other Councils had already adopted a policy on the use of the Cornish language and expressed the opinion that it would be good if Helston Town Council could show support for its use.

A representative of the students from Helston Community College thanked the Mayor and Town Clerk for attending a lunch with the School Council. He then advised that the Student Body was concerned and interested in what was happening with the proposed new build and that he hoped the recently elected Cornwall Council would honour the promise of its predecessor.

Councillor Mrs Haycock suggested that the Town Council write to Cornwall Council to express its strong support of the College and the building work required.

A member of the public advised that he was saddened by the death of Mr John Ellis who was a valued and appreciated volunteer in the town.

129. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th June 2013 be approved and signed as a true record.

Councillor Upton requested that his abstention from the vote be recorded.

130. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 20th June and 4th July 2013, be received.

131. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 9th July 2013, be received and the recommendation approved.

132. Update from the Town Plan Survey Working Party

Councillor Knight advised that the Town Plan Survey Working Party had met twice and thanked fellow Members for their enthusiasm and determination to move forward. She advised that the Working Party had focused first on which issues were within the remit of Helston Town Council and which were not, and then outlined the proposals of the Working Party confirming that the notes had been circulated to Members the previous day. The Town Clerk advised that Members could not make a decision on the proposals as the report had not been circulated in sufficient time to give the three clear days notice required by law. However the Town Clerk advised that recommendations one and two were already included on the Agenda for discussion at the following week's Amenities Committee meeting and he could arrange a meeting with a Cornwall Council Officer as outlined in recommendation three without a formal proposal. A detailed debate ensued during which the Town Clerk advised that the Council could not spend from the Section 106 public realm works fund until a consultation had been carried out. The Regeneration Officer post was about to be recruited and the consultation would be their first priority.

133. Announcements

The Chairman congratulated the Helston Business Improvement Partnership on receipt of its award from the Association of Town & City Management.

134. Use of Kernewek (the Cornish Language) by Helston Town Council

Councillor Knight advised that the use of the Cornish language would promote Helston as well as the heritage of Cornwall. She advised that she was not asking for everything to be in Cornish and circulated a sample policy. Councillor Knight then recommended that Helston Town Council adopt a similar or identically worded policy so that Helston could be seen to support the Cornish language at no cost to the Council. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Mrs Roberts, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) 'Helston Town Council' in Cornish be included on the Council letterhead; and
- b) the sample policy on the use of the Cornish language be adopted.

135. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that the Accounts as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £23,074.53.

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

136. Attendance at Meetings

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

RESOLVED – that the written report submitted by the Town Clerk be received.

137. Items for the next Agenda

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

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor