

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2010 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: R J L Boase (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
Mrs S M E Swift
N J C Devenish
K Reynolds

Mrs V J Matthew
D C Swift
Mrs F N E Boase
R R Pryor

M H Thomas
J P Radford-Gaby
Mrs W A Radford-Gaby

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

315. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Mayor's Chaplain, Canon David Miller.

316. Police Matters

The Mayor 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 Reynolds asked WPC Butcher if she thought the two new crossings on Clodgey Lane would impede the flow of traffic. WPC Butcher advised that they were 'on demand' traffic lights and it would only be possible to determine the effect when they were in use.

The Mayor advised that there had been a large number of cars parked on the pavement in Church Street and Cross Street the previous evening and requested that the police revisit the issue. WPC Butcher agreed to do so.

317. Public Participation

Mr Clotworthy queried why he not seen the PSCO's on a 9am Patrol recently. WPC Butcher advised that there was no specific reason but believed they may have been carrying out other duties in a different area.

Mr Maddock expressed concerns regarding the Cornwall Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2011 Consultation and made particular mention to the increase in cost of the permit for the Castle Green residents and the loss of special 'residents' permits'.

Mr Busby advised that he had written to the Cornwall Council Division Members to express concerns regarding the bus service available in Helston and asked Members to support the Cornwall Councillors' request for a complete review of the town bus service. Mr Busby then advised that the problems of blockages in kennels were exacerbated by the build up of silt in the silt sumps which had not been cleaned out for a number of years. Mr Busby also informed Members that the bench located at the top of Penrose Road was not well used as the area was often overgrown and cars parked too close to it.

Mr Upton queried the progress of the bus shelter in Coinagehall Street as he had received a letter from the Highways Service advising that the proposal had been abandoned. The Town Clerk advised that he had met with the Conservation Officer to agree a design and confirmed that, whilst Cornwall Council were no longer funding the scheme, the Town Council were still pursuing the project.

Mr Upton queried if Members wanted the trestle tables held at the Community Centre which belonged to Harvest Fair. The Mayor advised that the tables were damaged and it had been previously agreed that they could be either used or disposed of by the Community Association. Mr Upton then queried if the maximum expenditure for Counsel of £450.00 (Min. No. 285/2010) was in addition to or included in the Ear Marked Reserve figure. The Town Clerk advised that the Ear Marked Reserve was a budget whilst the expenditure item was a cost that could either be met from the current year Revenue budget or the Ear-marked Reserve.

318. Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor D C Swift, seconded by Councillor Pryor, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 21st October 2010 be approved and signed as a true record.

Councillor Reynolds abstained from the vote as he had not been present.

319. Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 13th October 2010, be received.

320. Minutes of the Planning Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor D C Swift, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 21st October and 4th November 2010, be received.

Councillor Reynolds abstained from the vote as he had not been present.

321. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 9th November 2010, be received and the recommendations approved.

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

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

The Town Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Councillor Robertson.

Councillor Mrs Haycock gave a detailed report during which she made particular mention to the public consultation on waste collection; a design problem with the kennels which was partly causing them to overflow, parking issues at Parc Eglos School and the lack of consultation regarding the new crossings in Clodgy Lane.

Councillor Wallis advised that letters had been sent to the residents of Castle Green asking them to provide evidence of the agreement concerning the concessionary rate they had paid for parking in the Castle Green Car Park, but no proof had been received. Councillor Wallis confirmed that the maximum charge for residents would be £250 not £450, which was the cost for a season ticket, and advised that Cornwall Council could have removed the residents' parking leaving a season ticket as the only option. Councillor Wallis further advised that Cornwall Council had looked at all the car parks in Cornwall and it would be unfair to offer one car park special treatment, but confirmed if a resident could prove the concessionary rate it would be honoured.

Councillor Reynolds expressed the opinion that, if the residents had paid the District Council and it had been accepted, a precedent had been set. Councillor Wallis advised that this did not constitute a legal entitlement.

b) Community Network Manager

Mrs C Chadwick provided a detailed written report (circulated prior to the meeting) which made particular mention to the Youth Café Peoples Millions Bid, the launch of the South Kerrier Loyalty Card Scheme, the Community Network Panel meeting and Affordable Housing. Mrs Chadwick updated Members on the Youth Café Bid, the Loyalty Card Scheme and Affordable Housing.

Councillor Devenish expressed disappointment at the cancellation of the Community Network Meeting regarding transport and infrastructure. Mrs Chadwick advised that it was intended to reschedule the meeting for either December or early January.

323. Questions from Members pursuant to Standing Order 8.1

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Devenish had enquired how many members of the public, excluding Council Members and staff, had borrowed the electricity use meters. The Town Clerk advised that twelve members of the public had borrowed the meters.

324. Helston Town Council Website

Councillor Thomas advised that he had requested this item on the Agenda to discuss the Town Council website as he was of the opinion that the website had served the purpose it had been set up for but required a review to ensure that it remained suitable for the future. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, and

RESOLVED – that the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee be asked to review the Helston Town Council website.

Councillors D C Swift and Pryor voted against the Motion.

Councillor Thomas voted for the Motion.

325. Helston Play Areas Section 106 Funding

Councillor Devenish advised that he was seeking Council's support to request that the Section 106 funding relating to the Willows development be transferred to Helston Town

Council as he was of the opinion that the Play Committee was well placed to drive projects forward. The Town Clerk advised that the funding had not been received by Cornwall Council and was the subject of a Viability Assessment. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to the Cornwall Council Strategic Greenspace Officer, Community Network Manager and three Local Division Members to request that the £33,000 Section 106 funding from the Willows development, earmarked for spending on Helston’s playgrounds, be transferred to the Town Council with the guarantee that it was ring-fenced for playgrounds, as the Town Council’s Play Committee was better placed than Cornwall Council to deliver the planning and consultation required to move identified projects forward.

326. Public Realm Works Section 106 Funding

Councillor J P Radford-Gaby advised that he wished to request that Cornwall Council divert some of the Public Realm Works Section 106 funding ear-marked for improvements to the Horse & Jockey area and Trengrouse Way Car Park to the maintenance of the White Wash Walls and Kennels to preserve two of the town’s historic features. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that in accordance with the letter from the Head of Planning & Regeneration dated 11th August 2010, Cornwall Council be asked to consider allowing Helston Town Council to spend a portion of the Public Realm Works money in a different way to that specified in the Section 106 Agreements as detailed below:

a) the sum of £10,000 for the current year, and the sum of £2,500 for the following four years (total £20,000) be allocated to Helston Town Council to enable it to undertake a programme of repairing/repainting all the whitewashed walls within the Town and for a continued maintenance programme for the following four years; and

b) the sum of £12,000 for the current year, and the sum of £12,000 for the following four years (total £60,000) be allocated to Helston Town Council to allow it to maintain, repair and weed the historic kennels in Helston, and to undertake other such weeding/cleanup work in the Town as required.

327. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Kennels

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to the Cornwall Council Environmental Engineer to request that the hedge trimming and silt removal be carried out to clear the kennel near Gander Lane at the earliest opportunity.

(2) Cornwall Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2011 Consultation

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council found the cost of £142.00 increasing to £250.00 for an annual parking permit for the Castle Green Car Park to be excessive for a market town but would support residents parking at a reasonable increase on the existing rate of £32.00.

At 8.58pm the meeting adjourned for a period of three minutes resuming at 9.01pm.

(3) Youth Meeting

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council form a Working Party of interested Councillors to work in conjunction with the Community Network Manager to research and produce a report on how young people wish to be involve with the Town Council.

It was further proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Councillors Mrs Matthew, Mrs Boase, Thomas and Mrs Radford-Gaby be appointed to the Working Party.

328. Report of the Town Warden

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to Cornwall Council and copied to the Division Member to request that the unserviceable bin in the King George V Play Area together with the missing bins in Church Street and Cross Street be replaced at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor J P Radford-Gaby queried the status of the road sweeper. The Town Warden advised that the machine was working and commenced its daily schedule at 4.30am.

Councillor Thomas raised concerns regarding the condition of the Coronation Lake. The Town Warden advised that he had raised the issues with the Park Warden who had passed them on to his supervisors.

Councillor Mrs Swift queried if the Town Warden was required to carry out work that was the responsibility of Cornwall Council in Coronation Park. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Warden was contacted by members of the public, as he was easily recognisable, regarding issues which he verified prior to forwarding on to Cornwall Council. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by the Mayor, and

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to Cornwall Council to request that their employees provide a more visible and frequent presence in Coronation Park.

Councillor D C Swift expressed concerns regarding the road sweeper operating in the wrong direction up Meneage Street.

The Mayor declared an interest in the following item.

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair at 9.35pm.

329. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 264-298 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £17,721.23.

(The Mayor declared an interest in Account Nos. 282, 284, 293 and 298. Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account No. 297.)

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

The Mayor resumed the Chair at 9.40pm.

330. Attendance at Meetings

The Mayor informed Members that following changes to the format of Full Council meetings a written report would be required for this item in future.

Councillor Mrs Boase had attended a Bulwark Road Residents Association Meeting.

Councillor Mrs Swift had provided a written report which advised that she had attended a CALC General meeting, two CALC Executive meetings and a Larger Councils Committee meeting.

331. Items for the next Agenda

The Mayor requested that Members contact the Town Clerk's office with items that they wished to be considered. He then reminded Members that items may be referred directly to a Committee.

332. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor D C Swift, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, 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.

333. Helston Community Centre

Members considered a Report by the Town Clerk together with correspondence from the Town Council's Solicitor (circulated prior to the meeting). It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor D C Swift, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the draft letter produced by the Town Council's Solicitor be approved subject to the agreed amendments; and
- b) Counsel's fee of up to £750 be authorised.

Meeting closed at 9.52pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor