

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.15 PM

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

R Williams
Mrs S M E Swift
R J L Boase
N J C Devenish

K Reynolds
D C Swift
Mrs F N E Boase
R R Pryor

M H Thomas
Miss J A Hornsby
J Martin

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

292. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor and Councillor Mrs Swift declared an interest in the Town Centre Manager's Report (Agenda item 14) as Directors on the Helston Business Improvement Partnership. Councillor Martin declared an interest in the Town Centre Manager's Report (Agenda item 14). Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest in the budget requests included in the Town Centre Manager's Report (Agenda item 14) as members of the Helston Business Improvement Partnership.

Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account No. 291 on the Schedule of Accounts (Agenda item 16).

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest in Account No. 311 on the Schedule of Accounts (Agenda item 16).

Councillor Devenish declared an interest in Account No. 310 on the Schedule of Accounts (Agenda item 16).

Councillor Mrs Boase advised she understood that a representative of Helston Country Market intended to speak during public participation and declared an interest as a member of the organisation.

Councillor Pryor declared an interest in Account No. 319 on the Schedule of Accounts (Agenda item 16).

293. Police Matters

The Mayor extended a welcome to WPC Butcher who presented a detailed report which included recent crime figures and detail on two particular crimes she wished to bring to Members' attention. She further outlined the policing efforts being carried out in the run up to 31st October and 5th November and confirmed that she would arrange for leaflets to be dropped into the Guildhall.

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

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

The Mayor confirmed that apologies had been received from Councillor Robertson.

Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that it had been a busy week at County Hall and confirmed that she had been assisting with planning and highways issues.

Councillor Devenish expressed concern regarding a recent incident he had observed with several buses attempting to use the bus stops on both sides of Coinagehall Street and one of the buses was double parked which had resulted in a complete blockage of the road. He advised that he understood this was a regular occurrence and asked if the issue could be prevented. Councillor Mrs Haycock confirmed that she was aware that connections between bus routes were encouraged but advised that she would contact the bus companies to make enquiries about the issue.

Councillor Pryor enquired if there was any further information on the issue of vehicles for sale in the Clodgy Lane lay-by. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the signage in the lay-by stated no trading but confirmed that she had not yet had the opportunity to follow-up on the matter.

Councillor Reynolds requested confirmation that Councillor Mrs Haycock had at the previous meeting given 'prevention of the loss of frontline services' as her reason for voting against the proposal to object to the out-sourcing of front line staff. Councillor Mrs Haycock confirmed that this was a précis of what she had said.

The Mayor advised that there was an issue with parking at the top of both Cades Parc and Penrose Road in the evening which affected the visibility at the junctions with Godolphin Road. He advised that he was aware the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers only worked during the day but asked if there was some way the issue could be dealt with. The Mayor further advised that there was also an issue with vehicles parking on the pavement in Cross Street. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that vehicles parking on the pavement were a police issue and confirmed that the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers could only enforce parking which was not in accordance with the Road Traffic Orders. She further advised that there were no double yellow lines at the top of Cades Parc but the Police could take action if the parking was dangerous or caused an obstruction. She confirmed that there were double yellow lines at the top of Penrose Road and advised that the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers could act on this issue.

Councillor Wallis advised that he had given a social media surgery at Helston Library which had de-mystified the issue for a number of people. He confirmed that he had been invited to speak on social media at the Traders Forum and would be holding a surgery for businesses on the subject. He then offered to provide a surgery for Members of Helston Town Council.

Councillor D C Swift advised that he had visited a private car park in a neighbouring town which had offered free parking for the first two hours and asked if Cornwall Council would consider a similar scheme for Helston as he believed the initiative would increase footfall within the town. Councillor Wallis advised that Cornwall Council did not finance the free parking and confirmed that the Business Improvement District in the area had provided funding to cover Cornwall Council's loss of income from the initiative. The Town Centre Manager confirmed that the issue was being investigated by the Helston Business Improvement Partnership and the idea was possible if it was felt to be an appropriate use of the Section 106 funding. Councillor Wallis confirmed that Cornwall Council were open to schemes if someone was willing to pay Cornwall Council for the loss of income and advised that he was working with the traders on the issue and had provided information on tariffs. Councillor Wallis further advised that Cornwall Council were offering free parking in specific car parks on 31st October with a voucher provided in the West Briton Newspaper.

Councillor Reynolds asked Councillor Wallis, as he had proposed an objection to Cabinet's decision to out-source front line staff, which front line services he believed could be lost. Councillor Wallis advised that Councillor Reynolds was not aware of all the information and would need to read all the reports at which time he would be willing to discuss the issue further with him. Councillor Wallis advised that his main concern was a large amount of

Council Tax payers' money would be passed to a private company under the proposal and Cornwall Council would no longer have control over the services provided. Councillor Wallis then advised that he would make no further comments on the issue.

Councillor Reynolds advised that he was aware that Cornwall Councillors would shortly be voting on whether to give themselves a 35% pay rise and asked Councillor Wallis how he would be voting. Councillor Wallis expressed his dissatisfaction with the line of questioning and refused to confirm how he intended to vote. Councillor Wallis advised that the role of Councillor was a full time job for many Cornwall Councillors and they only received approximately £12,000. He advised that some Councillors had difficulties making ends meet which required them to take on second or third jobs and expressed the opinion that Members deserved to receive a decent level of pay, confirming that the proposed increase was still below average national pay levels.

Councillor Thomas asked if the lessons on social media that Councillor Wallis had given included a code of etiquette and advice to not leave anonymous comments. Councillor Wallis advised that the issue of anonymous comments known as 'Trolling' was being considered by Government and needed to be legislated against. He further advised that it was best to ignore or block anonymous comments and report the issue to the social media site who could investigate and take further action. Councillor Wallis confirmed that he always encouraged people to put their name to any comments they made.

b) Community Network Manager

Mrs Chadwick updated Members on her report to advise that Terry Waite had agreed to become president of the Citizenship for Life programme and confirmed that she had also secured the services of a graduate, Lucie Robinson, who would be based in Helston and would be seeking further funding to expand the Citizenship for Life Programme. She further advised that the event for the end of the current Programme was being held at the Eden Project at 8am on 7th December and confirmed that an invitation for Members would shortly be forwarded to the Town Clerk. Mrs Chadwick further advised that the Community Chest Grants were rapidly approaching the deadline and confirmed that there was still funding available. Mrs Chadwick advised that the rules for the grants had been changed to allow applications from individuals. Mrs Chadwick then advised that the Halloween posters provided by the Police were being displayed on the Young Persons notice boards.

Councillor Thomas requested clarification on the deadline for Community Chest Grant Applications. Mrs Chadwick advised that the funding had to be allocated by the last working day in December and in order to meet this date applications had to be received by the end of November.

Councillor Thomas referred to the Helston Food Bank advising that he would like to see the scheme supported by all the supermarkets and requested an update on the situation. Mrs Chadwick advised that after her last meeting with the group they had been invited to come back to her for further assistance which they had not yet done and confirmed that she would contact them again.

Councillor Mrs Swift referred to a recent vote taken by Falmouth Town Council that a Community Network Manager was not needed and asked if that meant Mrs Chadwick would be spending more time in Helston. Mrs Chadwick briefly updated Members on the situation and advised that her work for the Falmouth and Penryn Community Network area covered nine parishes and not solely Falmouth and for Falmouth Town Council's resolution to have been successful it would have needed the support of the entire Network Area.

295. Public Participation

A member of the public thanked Councillor Wallis for his introduction into social media at Helston Library. He further advised that he spoke to a number of local people who were not certain what the Town Centre Manager did. He then suggested that some of the Section 106 funding could be used to provide one week's free parking prior to Christmas. The Mayor advised that the suggestion for free parking could be considered by the Helston Business Improvement Partnership who would then have to submit a project proposal to the Council.

A further member of the public queried the reason why the Mayor's Board and photographs of the Mayor's had not been updated. The Mayor confirmed that the Mayor's Board had been updated in June. Councillor R J L Boase advised that a photograph had been taken of him as Mayor and Councillor Martin confirmed that the picture just needed to be framed and displayed.

A third member of the public advised that he had intended to ask WPC Butcher the procedure for voting on the role of Police Commissioner and queried if the election was open to the entire county or just a select few. The Mayor confirmed that everyone in the County who were included on the Electoral Register would be entitled to vote. The member of the public then expressed concern that the vehicles for sale prevented the use of the Clodgey Lane lay-by and queried if the law allowed vehicles to park on pavements. The Mayor advised that he was unable to answer the question as he was not an Officer of the Law and suggested that the question needed to be addressed to the Police. A member of the public advised that vehicles were not allowed to park on the pavement and outlined the two offences doing so caused.

A member of the public advised that Helston Theatre Company Committee had asked him to thank Members for the funding and advised that they were now seeking match funding. He then spoke as a member of Helston Business Improvement Partnership to commend the Town Centre Manager's Report and asked Members to support the Christmas Event requesting that the short time scale for the event also be taken into consideration. He then referred to 3 Penrose Road stating he was aware that two years ago the Council had passed a resolution that the proceeds of the sale be used for the provision of a new community building. He asked if this decision could be revisited as, with the new Light & Life Community Building, the town now had five community buildings. The Mayor confirmed that the proceeds of the sale had been ring-fenced and would require another resolution to be put to a different use.

Councillor Mrs Boase declared an interest and left the meeting at 7.58pm

The Manager of Helston Country Market spoke on the Council's request that they remove their storage from the basement of the Guildhall and asked permission to retain a cupboard in the basement for the storage of display equipment for the Market. She confirmed that they were willing to purchase a metal cupboard to comply with the Fire Regulation issue. She advised that Helston Country Market was a non-profit making co-operative market which unlike other users had held a market at the Guildhall for nearly fifty years. She further advised that for approximately twenty years the Country Market had owned the majority of the tables in the hall and had allowed their free use by users of the hall and the Council. She confirmed that the Market was continuing to grow but advised the operation without some of their equipment could prove detrimental to its survival. She then expressed the opinion that the possible loss of the Country Market could affect many people in Helston who bought and sold through them and advised that the Market would have to consider moving to other premises which would result in the Council losing both the tables and the income generated. The Mayor confirmed that the issue could not be debated as it had been dealt with by the Amenities Committee. The Town Clerk confirmed that, as there was no substantial new information, the issue could not be discussed again until six months from the original decision date. The Mayor confirmed that the Council needed the space for storage of Council documents.

296. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th September 2012 be approved and signed as a true record.

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

297. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 20th September and 4th October 2012, be received.

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

298. 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 meeting held on the 27th September 2012, be received.

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

299. Minutes of the Play & Young People Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Play & Young People Committee meeting held on the 8th October 2012, be received.

300. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

Councillor Devenish queried the recommendation for the Licensing Consultative Group's Terms of Reference as the decision to have the Group had been called-in and was included on the Town Clerk's Report. The Town Clerk confirmed that the formation of the Licensing Consultative Group had been agreed but the membership had been called-in as, at that time, it had not been possible to comply with the Terms of Reference.

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 9th October 2012, be received.

Councillor Devenish requested that his vote against the Motion be recorded.

301. Announcements

The Mayor referred to the distribution of vouchers from the Mayor's Welfare Fund at Christmas to express concern that the value of the voucher had been £10 for many years and the list had also been in existence without significant update for a number of years. He advised that he had taken the decision to increase the value of the voucher to £15 and confirmed that he was starting a new list to ensure that the vouchers were sent to those genuinely in need. He then invited Councillors and members of the public to contact his Secretary with nominations for the list.

The Mayor and Councillors Mrs Swift and Martin declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting at 8.15pm.

Councillor Thomas (Deputy Mayor) took the Chair at 8.15pm.

302. Report of the Town Centre Manager

The Town Centre Manager advised that he had held the first forum meeting for Water-Ma-Trout traders with signage being amongst the issues raised and confirmed that he was also meeting with Andrew George MP the following day.

The Town Centre Manager advised that the Helston Business Improvement Partnership had been granted £10,000 to action two of the items which formed part of the Portas Pilot Proposal. Councillor Thomas expressed his congratulations on the funding.

The Town Centre Manager further advised that there was an opportunity to apply for the High Street X-Fund to fund existing projects and confirmed he was working with Mrs Chadwick on the Application. He also encouraged Members to attend the Breakfast meetings and speak with businesses. The Town Centre Manager then referred to the comments from the public gallery to advise that his role was to represent the businesses but this did not mean he ignored the public and confirmed that he wished to reassure the public that the Helston Business Improvement Partnership were investigating the issue of parking very seriously.

Councillor Devenish referred to the Town Centre Manager's comments in the report that an e-commerce offer was a necessity for businesses and asked if there was an opportunity for training. The Town Centre Manager confirmed that training was possible and advised that he was looking into an organisation which provided a central e-commerce site which all businesses could use.

Councillor Devenish asked if landlords could offer discounts for small business start-ups in order to encourage new businesses. The Town Centre Manager advised that he was trying to get prospective purchasers in touch with landlords and hoped to create a Landlord Register. He advised that landlords were amenable to offers but the main issue was that they were not getting the right contacts.

Councillor Devenish spoke on the requirement for future funding beyond the life of the Section 106 funding and queried why a Business Improvement District (BID) had not been included in the future plans. The Town Centre Manager confirmed that the purpose of the Business Improvement Partnership was to be sustainable over time so it could continue the regeneration. He advised that potentially the Partnership would start investigating the feasibility for a BID the following year but the initiative needed to come from the businesses.

Councillor Thomas expressed concern regarding the state of exterior decoration of some buildings within the town and asked if the Town Centre Manager had been able to speak to the owners about improvements. The Town Centre Manager advised that the main difficulty was that some buildings were in multi-ownership and confirmed that the Helston Business Improvement Partnership would have a Proposal for the next meeting. He advised he hoped that there would be a significant improvement in appearance by Flora Day 2013.

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest in the budget requests and left the meeting at 8.31pm.

Members considered a budget application for insurance for the Helston Business Improvement Partnership. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, and

RESOLVED – that a budget of £1,500 be authorised for insurance for the Helston Business Improvement Partnership.

Members then considered the budget application for the Helston Celebrates Christmas Project. The Town Centre Manager briefly outlined the proposal scrutiny procedure and the details for the planned event. Councillor Devenish queried why £400 for insurance had been included in the project budget when an application had been submitted for insurance for the Helston Business Improvement Partnership. The Town Centre Manager confirmed that the insurance requirement had been included in the budget in case the Helston Business Improvement Partnership insurance had not been authorised. Councillor Reynolds queried if all the revenue was intended to stay with the Helston Business Improvement Partnership or just the profit. The Town Centre Manager confirmed that it was intended that all the Revenue would stay with the Helston Business Improvement Partnership. On the proposition of Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, it was

RESOLVED – that a budget of £2,440.00 be authorised for the Helston Celebrates Christmas project.

The Mayor and Councillors Mrs Swift, R J L Boase, Mrs Boase and Martin returned to the meeting at 8.48pm.

The Mayor resumed the Chair at 8.48pm.

303. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Flora Day Guildhall Decorations

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

RESOLVED – that the £500.00 budget for the decoration of the Guildhall be equally donated to Helston British Legion and the Cancer Funding for Cornwall shop in Coinagehall Street.

(2) Licensing Consultative Group

The Town Clerk advised that when the recommendation by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee was called-in at the previous meeting there had only been five Members trained so the Group would not have been able to adhere to the Terms of Reference. The Town Clerk confirmed that Councillor R J L Boase had since been trained. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor D C Swift, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the six trained Members, which covered all three Committees, form the Licensing Consultative Group until the Annual meeting in May; and
- b) all Members be encouraged to undertake training.

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

(3) Gorsedh DVD

This item was noted.

304. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 279-324 with the exception of Account Nos 310, 311 and 319 as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £21,204.15.

Councillor R J L Boase, Devenish, Mrs Boase and Pryor declared an interest and left the meeting at 9.01pm.

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 310, 311 and 319 as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £885.75.

Councillor R J L Boase, Devenish, Mrs Boase and Pryor returned to the meeting at 9.02pm.

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

305. Attendance at Meetings

Councillor Devenish advised that the Council had two representatives on the Helston Business Improvement Partnership and queried why no reports had been received. He expressed the opinion the Councillors reports could provide a different perspective on the meetings. The Mayor and Councillor Mrs Swift advised that they accepted the comments and would provide reports on the meetings in the future.

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

RESOLVED – that the written reports submitted by Councillors Mrs Boase and Pryor be received.

306. 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.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor