

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 19TH MARCH 2009 AT 7.15 P.M.

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

Councillors:

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

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

426. PRAYERS

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

427. APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Martin as he was attending another meeting.

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

RESOLVED – that the Apology be received and accepted.

428. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors R.J.L. Boase, Mrs Matthew, Mrs Boase and Pryor declared an interest in item 12 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 14) as members of the Helston and District Town Twinning Association.

429. POLICE MATTERS

The Town Clerk advised that the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary had given their apologies and read a report on their behalf which included recent crime figures and those for the corresponding period from the year previous.

430. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr I Perry spoke on the subject of bus shelters in Coinagehall Street, and expressed concerns regarding the lack of a pedestrian crossing on the Porthleven Road. Mr Perry then advised that a colleague from Age Concern had tripped on the pavement outside the Methodist Church and expressed the hope that with Flora Day approaching the area would be tidied. The Mayor advised that the Keep Helston Tidy Group were planning the pre-Flora Day litter pick. Councillor Reynolds asked if Mr Perry's colleague had reported the pavement to County Highways as they were the Authority responsible for pavements.

Mr J Macknelly asked if the Town Council were going to support the Phase II plans for the Cattle Market site and referred to comments made in a meeting. The Mayor confirmed that all discussions had taken place in a private meeting and as such were confidential and advised that he was not willing to break that confidentiality. Mr Macknelly asked if the Town Council had asked Kerrier for the transfer of this asset. The Mayor confirmed that the Town Council had asked Kerrier District Council for the transfer of the asset sometime ago.

Mr A Rideout asked if there was a response to correspondence sent to the Council from another member of the public regarding the Community Centre, or Mr Upton's question regarding the Community Centre maintenance grant. The Mayor advised that these were both to be discussed later in the meeting as confidential items and he could not comment until the Council had had the opportunity to discuss them.

431. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 19th February 2009 be approved and signed as a true record.

432. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

On the proposition of Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 19th February and 5th March 2009, be received.

433. 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 23rd February 2009, be received.

434. MINUTES OF THE HARVEST FAIR COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 5th March 2009, be received.

435. MINUTES OF THE POLICY, FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 11th March 2009, be received.

Councillor Mrs Swift abstained from the vote.

436. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised Members that the latest issue of the Mayor's Blog had been uploaded onto the Council's website the previous day and confirmed that he had been inspired to be positive about youth. The Mayor further requested Members' permission to expand the website to create a directory of youth groups and activities.

On the proposition of Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Council's website be modified to include a directory of youth groups and activities.

The Town Clerk advised that he had copies of the paper based course on Chaining meetings available, and asked interested Members to collect a copy from his office and to discuss the process.

437. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

a) Local County Councillors

Councillor Mrs Lyne advised that the Cornwall Council election would take place on 4th June 2009 and would be based on the draft Boundary Committee recommendations. Councillor Mrs Lyne advised that she would be standing for Cornwall Council but due to boundary changes her area would no longer include Helston, and thanked Members for their assistance over the years. Councillor Mrs Lyne also confirmed that she would be one of six Members representing the area on the Transitional Planning Committee.

Councillor Curnow expressed his disappointment that the elections were going to be based on the draft proposals. He felt that the Unitary Authority was the way forward and expressed the hope that the elections would not be boycotted. Councillor Curnow mentioned Helston Community College's consultation on Foundation School Status and further advised that he had written to Gill Steward to support the Council's concerns regarding Community Network Managers. He then spoke on his years as a Councillor and thanked the Council for all it had done and expressed the opinion that the Town Council would have a big part to play in the future.

The Mayor advised that Councillor Phillips had provided a written report which had been circulated in Members folders.

b) Local District Councillors

Councillor Mrs Swift confirmed that the final Audit meeting at Kerrier District Council had been held and advised that all Chairs were included on the Interim Audit Committee of Cornwall Council. Councillor Mrs Swift had also attended the last Standards and Ethics meeting at which two independent members had been appointed to the Standards Board. She then advised that she had been invited on to the Panel that appoints the Parish and Town Council representatives. Councillor Mrs Swift further advised that she was one of the interview panellists for the three Area Manager posts and would be on the Panel which was looking to fill the remaining Community Network Manager posts. Councillor Mrs Swift further advised that, together with Councillor Mrs Lyne, she was invited to visit Wiltshire Council to observe their transition into a Unitary Authority and confirmed that she would provide Members with a report. Councillor Mrs Swift also advised that she had accepted the invitation to join the Cornwall Lieutenancy Committee.

Councillor Reynolds spoke regarding the two supermarket planning applications which were providing Section 106 funding for improvements to the Town and a Town Centre Manager. Councillor Reynolds advised that the Mayor had written to Kerrier District Council and the Town Clerk had written to Cornwall Council but no response had been received. Councillor Reynolds urged both District and County Councillors to ensure that the funding was placed under the control of Helston Town Council as he believed that public funds should only be spent by elected representatives. Following a brief debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, and

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to Cornwall Council, copied to Kerrier District Council, to reiterate the Town Council's request for control of the Section 106 funding.

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Mrs Haycock had given her apologies and read a report on her behalf which made particular mention to the public consultation on street collections (item 7 of the Town Clerk's report, Agenda item 14).

The Mayor advised that it was the last meeting before the formation of Cornwall Council when the County and District Councils ceased to exist, and confirmed that Standing Orders needed to be amended to allow for the necessary changes to the Agenda. It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be revised to permit the change to the Local Councillors report Agenda item.

The Mayor thanked the County and District Councillors for their efforts and wished them well for the future.

438. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

(1) Neighbourhood Beat Manager

This item was noted.

(2) Allotments

This item was noted.

(3) CALC - Planning Focus Group

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk be given permission to join the Planning Focus Group.

(4) Cornwall Council Election

This item was noted.

(5) Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that Councillor Pryor be appointed to the Planning Committee.

(6) Casual Vacancy

This item was noted.

(7) Public Consultation – Street Collections

This item was noted.

(8) SLCC Regional Conference

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk and any interested Members be authorised to attend the Conference.

Councillor Mrs Boase indicated that she wished to attend.

(9) Coronation Park

This item was noted.

(10) ‘Cornwall: A New Beginning?’

This item was noted.

(11) Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy

This item was noted.

(12) Annual Renato Giorgi Poetry Competition

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by the Mayor, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council provide refreshments up to a maximum cost of £50.00.

Councillors R.J.L. Boase, Mrs Matthew, Mrs Boase and Pryor declared an interest in this item and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

(13) Council Tax

This item was noted.

(14) Grass Verges

This item was noted.

(15) Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Workshop

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that Councillors Phillips and Pryor attend the CPRE (Cornwall) Workshop.

Councillor Reynolds voted against the motion as he was opposed to training provided by CPRE.

(16) Sealing of Documents

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

RESOLVED – that the documents regarding the conveyance of the play area and open spaces at An Henlys be authorised for sealing by the Town Clerk.

(17) Emergency Plumbing Works

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Pryor, and
RESOLVED – that the emergency plumbing works be approved.

(18) Police Authority Liaison Meeting

This item was noted.

439. REPORT OF THE TOWN WARDEN

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to Kerrier District Council regarding the removal of temporary fencing at the King George V play area.

It was further proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that the issue of litter problems and Fixed Penalty Notices be discussed as a confidential item.

The Mayor declared an interest in the following item.

The Deputy Mayor took the chair at 8.20pm.

440. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 410-451 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £25,359.17.

(The Mayor, Councillor Williams and Councillor Mrs Swift declared an interest in Account Nos. 430, 451 and 436 respectively.)

It was agreed that the Cheques would be signed by Councillor Williams and Councillor Reynolds.

The Mayor resumed the Chair at 8.22pm.

441. ATTENDANCES AT MEETINGS

Councillor Mrs Boase had attended a South Kerrier Alliance meeting.

Councillor D.C. Swift had attended a meeting of the Cornwall Association of Larger Local Councils.

Councillor Reynolds had attended the Community Centre Public Meeting together with Councillor R.J.L. Boase and Councillor Martin. Councillor Reynolds and Councillor R.J.L. Boase both gave a report on the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Swift had attended two Citizens Advice Bureau Board meetings, a monthly meeting of a nominated Committee of the Cornwall Association of Larger Local Councils with Mary Cooper and Chaired two Cornwall Association of Larger Local Councils meetings.

The Mayor had attended the Youth Club Management Committee meeting together with Councillor Mrs Swift.

442. 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.

443. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Pryor, 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.

444. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

(1) Community Centre

(a) Court Proceedings

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, and

RESOLVED – that the instruction given to the Council's solicitor to resist the claim of the Helston and District Community Association be authorised.

It was further proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the Council's solicitor be authorised to provide three suggestions for a Quantity Surveyor to the Helston and District Community Association; and
- b) the Council confirmed that its preferred choice was Robert Batho from St. Austell.

(b) Community Centre Maintenance Grant

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Pryor, and

RESOLVED – that the Community Centre Maintenance Grant not be paid.

(c) Correspondence from a member of the public

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, and

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council considered that, as court proceedings had been issued, the subject was sub judice and would not enter into any further correspondence until after the Court Hearing.

(d) Planning Application

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the planning application be withdrawn;
- b) pdp Green Consulting be authorised to appoint Ed Crossley and Associates to produce a budget estimate of the conversion costs; and
- c) a Press Release be issued.

445. HANGING BASKETS FOR 2009

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) regarding the provision of Hanging Baskets for Coinagehall Street and the Guildhall.

On the proposition of Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was

RESOLVED – that the quotation to supply, install and maintain 26 baskets from RTS Garden Maintenance Services be accepted at a total cost of £2,175.00.

446. REPORT OF THE TOWN WARDEN

Following a detailed debate Members agreed to not to consider the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices at this time.

Meeting closed at 9.28pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor