

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
R J L Boase
Mrs F N E Boase
M H Thomas

J Martin
Mrs N Roberts
D J Potter
T E Grattan-Kane

Rev. D P Reed
R F Edgcumbe
M J Kenchington

Officers: Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P J Lavelle (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr M Searle (Town Centre Regeneration Officer)

154. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Councillor Reverend Reed.

155. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

a) Declarations of Interest

The Mayor declared an interest in the re-imbusement of Twinning Travel Expenses [Agenda item 16(4)].

b) Requests from Members for Dispensations

There were no requests for Dispensations.

156. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that he was a member of the Licensing Committee and Vice-Chair of the Miscellaneous Licensing Committee and had attended six meetings since the last Town Council meeting to consider applications and appeals across the west of the County. He expressed his disappointment that the Cornwall Council Full Council meeting had been cancelled due to no motions or recommendations being raised and expressed the opinion that, given notice, he believed discussion items could have been brought forward. He advised that both himself and Councillor Thomas had experienced their first dilemma where their involvement with the West Sub-Area Planning Committee would prevent them representing the Town Council at the forthcoming Planning meeting, but confirmed the issue had been resolved as the Mayor had agreed to represent the Town Council. Councillor Martin advised that many of the concerns he had been assisting with related to parking, planning or highways and he was discovering the best contacts to assist with the issues. He advised that there were a lot of Members and Officers within the Council struggling with procedures and low budgets to make things work as well as they could. Councillor Martin further advised that he had been involved in discussions to introduce an Events Strategy for Cornwall Council and hoped to use the research by Councillor Potter to establish Cornwall as part of the Tour of Britain Cycle race in 2020 as a test case for the 'events' initiative. Councillor Martin then referred to the Hellys International Guitar Festival and the Harvest Fair weekend expressing the opinion that the events were wonderful opportunities to present the town to the outside world and that more events were needed. Cornwall Councillor Martin then advised that both he and Councillor Thomas hoped to establish Saturday morning surgeries when their workload levelled out.

Councillor Williams advised that he had received a number of complaints from members of the public regarding the collapsed wall in Godolphin Road and thanked Cornwall Councillor Martin for his assistance.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas updated Members on his investigations into World Heritage Status for Helston's Kennels and Leats which he had added onto his role as Cornwall Councillor confirming that he had identified the areas involved and the work to be carried out. Councillor Thomas advised that he had been involved with flood prevention issues for Manor Way and Manor Close and the Planning Officer was working with the Developer for the HX1 site to ensure that the problems were resolved. Councillor Thomas confirmed he had been involved in the planning application for Helston Community College advising that the application was supported in principle but he had identified nine groups of people who had an interest in the outcome of the application. He advised that he had attended a number of training events on planning and also crowdfunding which had proved very useful. Councillor Thomas also expressed his disappointment at the cancellation of the Cornwall Council Full Council meeting advising that whilst he respected the Chair's decision he would be raising the issue at his group meeting. Councillor Thomas advised that the Community Network Meetings were being expanded with Town and Parish Councils being encouraged to work together on network groups, confirming that Cabinet had committed to revitalising and empowering the networks. He then referred to transport issues within the town advising that members of the public had expressed safety concerns regarding the speed of vehicles along the 30 mph stretch of the Redruth Road, confirming that whilst he was working on the issue there was no funding available.

The Mayor advised that apologies had been received from Cornwall Councillor Wallis.

157. Public Participation

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the cost of travelling for medical care due to increased travel distances. He also expressed concern with the closure of the banks within the town.

A representative of Helston Christmas Lights updated Members to advise that the testing of fixing points was being carried out the following week and could take up to three weeks to complete. He further advised that Helston Christmas Lights were requesting that a Councillor join their Committee as a representative of the Town Council.

A representative of Helston Air Training Corp (ATC) spoke in support of their grant application to advise that the ATC had been in the town since 1942 and he had been an instructor for 28 years. He advised that the Helston ATC supported the town at Civic Sunday, the Remembrance Parade and Poppy Appeal Events. He advised that the Cadets in the unit participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme and a range of activities available to them as part of the ATC. He confirmed that they wished to expand their fieldcraft training which taught the cadets to thrive and survive in arduous conditions and wished to purchase 'Bashas' (waterproof nylon sheets which acted as impromptu tents) and associated equipment to improve the experience.

A member of the public spoke in support of the grant application for Helston Netball Club to advise that the opportunity to join the group and play in a game once or twice a week had helped people experiencing life changing situations. He confirmed that the group had been in existence for two years and the majority of members were from Helston.

Representatives from Hellys Bocka Explorer Scout Unit spoke in support of their grant application to outline the group's activities and advise that they required specialist equipment to help with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards and monthly camps. He advised that they had carried out fund-raising by bag packs to purchase specialist equipment but they needed to buy better quality equipment which was more effective. He advised that the group tried to be inclusive whatever the background and would share the equipment with the other scout units whatever the age group.

A representative from Helston Railway Preservation Society spoke in support of their grant application advising that they were seeking funding for two trimmers and trimming equipment to assist with their community work with the young, disadvantaged and long term unemployed. He advised that they wished to provide more specific skills and experience to assist their volunteers in gaining employment. He further advised that even if the Council could not provide the full amount a part contribution was still very helpful as the support of Helston Town Council helped when obtaining other funding.

158. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th July 2017 be approved and signed as a true record.

Councillors Reverend Reed and Edgcumbe requested that their abstention from the vote be recorded as they had not been present at that meeting.

159. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 20th July, 3rd August and 7th September 2017, be received.

160. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 27th July 2017, be received.

161. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 12th September 2017, be received.

162. Announcements

The Mayor informed Members that she had visited Plougasnou at the beginning of September as part of a Twinning visit. She advised that she had been well looked after and made to feel very welcome. The Mayor advised that they would like younger people to participate in twinning and she had suggested that possibly young families could be encouraged to become involved. She advised that a group would be visiting Helston informally for Flora Day and expressed the opinion that they should be well looked after.

The Mayor then referred to the Merchant Navy Day and suggested that when the event took place the following year it be better advertised as she had received several expressions of interest from members of the public.

The Mayor referred to her suggestion at the July meeting and encouraged Members to come up with ideas to promote and improve Helston. She advised that she had written to the MP to discuss what he could do to put Helston on the map expressing the opinion that the Council needed to do something positive.

The Mayor then thanked those present who had been involved in organising Helston Harvest Fair for their hard work and expressed the opinion that more people needed to be encouraged to get involved.

163. Report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer

The Town Centre Regeneration Officer (TCRO) updated Members on his report to advise that the Castle Green landscaping was finished bar the planting and suggested that the Town Council have a completion ceremony. He further clarified that the proposed Monument Walk shelter had originally been part of the landscaping design which had to be dropped due to funding and this project was a way of delivering this part of the original scheme using another budget. The TCRO advised that he was now working on the Town Trail project expressing the opinion that there were opportunities to do more with the town trail particularly involving modern technology. He then responded to Members' questions regarding the types of technology that could be used and methods of promoting the trail.

Councillor Kenchington queried the TCRO's work plan and the TCRO outlined the projects he was involved with. The Mayor confirmed that the projects were all part of the Strategic Plan and the Town Clerk confirmed this was reviewed annually with the next review due in November.

164. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Grants

a) Determination of whether a grant be awarded

The Town Clerk advised that a grant application had been received from St Wendrona Church but there were doubts on the legality of giving funding towards church buildings which was not permitted under the Local Government Act 1894, S8(1). He confirmed that government ministers had indicated that it could be possible under the General Power of Competence but the National Association of Local Councils was of the opinion that whilst the General Power of Competence permitted the Council to do anything an individual could do, this did not supersede earlier legislation which prohibited an action. The Town Clerk therefore recommended that the Council did not award a grant towards St Wendrona Church.

It was agreed to award a grant to each of the following organisations:-

- i) 1st Helston Scout Group
- ii) 2nd Helston Brownies
- iii) 3rd (Helston) Sqn Air Training Corps
- iv) ACT1 Youth Theatre Group
- v) Hellys Bocka Explorer Scout Unit
- vi) Helston & District Carers Group
- vii) Helston & the Lizard Foodbank
- viii) Helston Bowling Club
- ix) Helston Netball Club
- x) Helston Railway Preservation Society
- xi) One & All Judo Club

The Council decided not to award a grant to the following organisations on this occasion:-

- i) Helston & District Town Twinning Association
- ii) St Wendrona Church

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Roberts and Councillor Reverend Reed requested that their abstention from the vote for ACT1 Youth Theatre Group and the One & All Judo Club be recorded.

b) Determination of amount of grant funding awarded

i) Helston & the Lizard Foodbank

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

RESOLVED – that a grant of £2,000.00 be awarded to Helston & the Lizard Foodbank as a contribution to the Coordinator's salary.

ii) Helston & District Carers Group

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, it was

RESOLVED – that a grant of £500.00 be awarded to Helston & District Carers Group for guest speakers at their meetings.

iii) 1st Helston Scout Group

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and

RESOLVED – that a grant of £250.00 be awarded to the 1st Helston Scout Group for the provision of fencing around the Scout Headquarters Building.

iv) 2nd Helston Brownies

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

RESOLVED – that a grant of £750.00 be awarded to the 2nd Helston Brownies for the purchase of tents and camping equipment.

v) Hellys Bocka Explorer Scout Unit

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

RESOLVED – that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to the Hellys Bocka Explorer Scout Unit to purchase specialised camping equipment.

vi) Helston Railway Preservation Society

It was proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and

RESOLVED – that a grant of £500.00 be awarded to the Helston Railway Preservation Society for the purchase of two trimmers and associated trimming equipment.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Williams, that a grant of £250.00 be awarded to the Helston Railway Preservation Society for the purchase of two trimmers and associated trimming equipment. The Amendment failed.

vii) 3rd (Helston) Sqn Air Training Corps

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

RESOLVED – that a grant of £350.00 be awarded to 3rd (Helston) Sqn Air Training Corps for the purchase of bashas and associated equipment.

viii) One & All Judo Club

It was proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Edgcumbe, that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to One & All Judo Club for the purchase of safety mats.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, that a grant of £500.00 be awarded to One & All Judo Club for the purchase of safety mats. The Amendment was carried on the casting vote of the Mayor and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that a grant of £500.00 be awarded to One & All Judo Club for the purchase of safety mats.

Councillor Mrs Roberts and Councillor Reverend Reed requested that their abstention from the vote be recorded.

ix) ACT1 Youth Theatre Group, Helston Bowling Club and Helston Netball Club
It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that:

a) a grant of £500.00 be awarded to ACT1 Youth Theatre Group towards the purchase of sound equipment;

b) a grant of £500.00 be awarded to Helston Bowling Club towards the installation of gas central heating and flat roof installation; and

c) a grant of £550.00 be awarded to Helston Netball Club for the purchase of equipment.

Councillor Mrs Roberts and Councillor Reverend Reed requested that their abstention from the vote be recorded.

(2) Battle's Over Beacon

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

RESOLVED – that a two metre high gas beacon be purchased at a cost of £360.00 plus vat and two gas cylinders also be purchased.

(3) Marketing Strategy

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

RESOLVED – that, in principle, the Council agreed to budget a sum for the 2018/19 financial year to enable some recommendations of a Marketing Strategy to be actioned.

(4) Twinning Visit - Plougasnou

The Mayor declared an interest in this item and left the meeting at 8.52pm after she had responded to Members' questions.

Councillor Martin (Deputy Mayor) took the Chair at 8.52pm.

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Mayor be reimbursed £324.60 for the cost of the car ferry required for the official twinning visit to Plougasnou.

An Amendment was proposed by R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Edgcumbe, that the Mayor be reimbursed £250.00 towards the cost of the car ferry required for the official twinning visit to Plougasnou. The Amendment failed.

It was further proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Martin, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the procedure for Civic visits be reviewed by the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee.

The Mayor returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair at 9.03pm.

(5) Christmas Lights Committee

Councillor R J L Boase and Councillor Grattan-Kane indicated an interest in representing the Town Council on the Christmas Lights Committee.

Following a secret ballot, Councillor Grattan-Kane was appointed as the Town Council's representative on the Helston Christmas Lights Committee for the current Civic Year.

(6) Christmas Closure

It was proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Martin, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Council offices be closed between Christmas and New Year.

(7) West Cornwall Local Action Group

This item was noted.

165. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 207-258 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £27,442.78 be received and Account Nos. 259-311 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £31,796.37 be certified for payment.

The Mayor requested that her abstention form the vote be recorded.

166. Attendance at Meetings

Members considered the Minutes of the Helston in Bloom Committee circulated as the report by Councillor R J L Boase. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate the Minutes of the West Cornwall CCTV Group for Members' information.

167. 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.

168. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor Reverend Reed, 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.

169. Confidential Report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer

(1) Proposed Monument Walk Shelter

Members considered the confidential report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer (circulated prior to the meeting). A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Mrs Roberts, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Council appoint In Steel as its preferred contractor for the development of detailed designs for the proposed Monument Walk shelter.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor