

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON**  
**ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 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  
D J Potter

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)

**197. Prayers**

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Mayor.

**198. Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Mrs Roberts, Grattan-Kane and Reverend Reed.

**199. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations**

**a) Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Thomas declared an interest in the re-imbusement of travel expenses (Agenda item 17).

**b) Requests from Members for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**200. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors**

Cornwall Councillor Martin congratulated Helston Town Council on achieving second place in the national awards scheme for Council of the Year, expressing the opinion that this reflected the hard work that the Town Clerk and his team and the Members had put in to support the community. Councillor Martin advised that there were two planning applications going before the West Sub-Area Planning Committee which the Town Council had recommended refusal of and expressed his disappointment that the Helston Town Framework was still not being officially recognised as a statement of intent for the town. Councillor Martin advised that together with Cornwall Councillor Thomas he was investigating how the imposed electoral numbers would affect the boundaries for the community network, confirming that a consultation meeting for the area would be held in the Guildhall on 8<sup>th</sup> December. Councillor Martin confirmed that he had attended both Planning and Licensing Committee meetings over the past month and had also logged a concern regarding the condition of the wall leading down the Castle Hill Steps. Councillor Martin then expressed his congratulations and thanks to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance events held the previous weekend which had been well supported by the community.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he had attended a variety of committee meetings and together with the Mayor and Cornwall Councillor Martin had met with Derek Thomas MP. Councillor Thomas confirmed that the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee continued to investigate an alternative delivery model for children's services and a business plan was being produced. He confirmed that Cabinet had supported

the consideration of fortnightly rubbish collections, advising that it was hoped that more people would recycle. Councillor Thomas confirmed that Cabinet had supported the 4.9% increase in council tax, advising that it would have needed to be a 13% increase to maintain current service levels and Council would be required to make £75 million of further cuts over the following years. Councillor Thomas expressed concern with the Electoral Review confirming that the consultation for the area was being held in the Guildhall on 8<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 4pm. He then advised that he had been involved in case work and briefly outlined the resolution of a caravan stored at Manor Close. Councillor Thomas advised that he had attended the Remembrance events and commended those involved for their organisation.

Councillor R J L Boase advised that he had wanted to ask Councillor Wallis a question but in his absence asked the other Cornwall Councillors if they could take the matter forward. Councillor R J L Boase raised his concerns with the time Cornwall Council were taking to issue a lease for the management of Coronation Park to the community group who had won the management tender. He expressed concern that the lake area was in a poor condition and was of the opinion that the new group needed to be in a position to take action on the issue before summer came around. Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he would speak to Cornwall Councillor Wallis about the issue and would confirm the situation.

The Town Clerk confirmed that apologies had been received from Cornwall Councillor Wallis who had advised that anyone could e-mail or telephone him about any issue within his area.

## **201. Public Participation**

A member of the public referred to comments made by the Mayor quoted in the local newspaper regarding Helston missing out on funding and queried why Cornwall Council carried out various works in and around Truro but overlooked Helston and the surrounding villages. The Mayor advised that she had recently met with Derek Thomas MP and he was aware that Helston and the surrounding area was overlooked and was working on a project to resolve this issue. She further advised that whilst Cornwall Council were ultimately using the money the funding initially came from elsewhere and needed to be directed towards Helston at the source. Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that, in respect of Helston, work needed to be carried out to improve the transport links to the town either with improvements to the B3297 or potentially with a rail link. He expressed the opinion that until Helston achieved better transport links it would be recognised by Government as a post Beeching economically deprived town. Councillor Thomas advised that he was aware that the Mayor was seriously concerned with business rates which were a very important issue to the town. The member of the public expressed the opinion that the close proximity to RNAS Culdrose did not help issues as it was felt that personnel came into town which would boost the area's economy but he did not believe that was the case.

## **202. Minutes**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 be approved and signed as a true record.

**203. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The Mayor advised that, as requested, a letter had been sent to the Devon & Cornwall Police regarding the level of police involvement on Remembrance Sunday but they had declined to increase their assistance with the event.

**204. Minutes of the Planning Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, be received.

**205. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, be received.

**206. Announcements**

The Mayor expressed her congratulations to all Members and staff on their achievement as runner up for the Star Council Award. Councillor Kenchington expressed the opinion that people should be aware that this is a national award and to come second in the country out of approximately 10,000 Parish and Town Councils was a significant achievement. The Town Clerk confirmed that the details of the award would be included on the Town Council's website and Facebook page the following day.

The Mayor then thanked all those who had participated in the Remembrance events expressing her pleasure that the parade on the Sunday had been very well attended. She thanked the people who generously gave up their time to manage the road closure for Remembrance Sunday and also those who put up the Christmas Lights advising that many towns did not benefit from so many volunteers and had to employ companies to erect the lights. The Mayor advised that another marshal training session was being organised to enable further volunteers to assist with road closures and encouraged the public to attend as it enabled the town to be self-sustaining for events.

The Mayor further advised that she had read that the Man Engine was visiting towns again and she had asked the Town Clerk to contact them to request that they visited Helston but whilst they had so far declined this was still being pursued. The Mayor then expressed the opinion that the Town Council required a portable speaker and microphone for use at outside events and requested an item on the following Amenities Committee agenda.

**207. Report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer**

The Town Centre Regeneration Officer (TCRO) advised that the new bench for the bottom of the Castle Green steps was being installed by the contractor in the near future and the wall lantern light had been remounted onto the gable wall of 14 Castle Green. The TCRO further advised that in September the Council had appointed In Steel as their approved contractor for the proposed Monument Walk shelter but, whilst the Council had anticipated a different price once the design was finalised, the contractor had agreed to hold their previous quotation.

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Council approved the In Steel Ltd quotation dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 for the sum of £20,770 exclusive of VAT subject to securing the balance of funding required from the National Lottery Awards for All bid or other appropriate sources.

## **208. Strategic Plan**

Members considered the Strategic Plan (circulated prior to the meeting) and made several suggestions for alterations to the priority of projects. During the discussion Councillor Potter requested an Agenda item to discuss the use of the balance of the proceeds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road. Councillor Thomas suggested that the Strategic Plan be considered by the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee to enable further discussion on developing the five year plan. The Town Clerk confirmed he would place an item on the January Policy, Finance & Resources Committee agenda.

## **209. Report of the Town Clerk**

### **(1) Electoral Review of Cornwall**

The Town Clerk provided Members with two maps showing the current Cornwall Council Divisions for the Network Area and a possible arrangement for the new Divisions from 2021. The Town Clerk then suggested the formation of a Working Party to develop a consultation response on behalf of Helston Town Council. Councillors Thomas and Martin outlined the benefits and disadvantages of the possible arrangement of the Divisions which incorporated a large rural area with one of the Helston Divisions but meant that Helston retained two Cornwall Councillors and was not linked with Porthleven. Councillor Thomas expressed concern that the issue was how to engage with the public to make them aware that this was a matter they needed to comment on as the final solution was likely to be in place for at least eight years. Councillor Martin advised that the possible arrangement had been devised without taking account of the new HX1 and HX2 developments which could be sufficient to justify two urban Divisions for Helston. Councillor Martin expressed the opinion that he would like the town boundaries to be redrawn to incorporate all of Helston including the HX1 development. The Town Clerk further advised that he had contacted the Clerks of the parishes which would be affected by the change in the Divisions for Helston but their councils had not yet discussed the subject. A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor R J L Boase, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Councillors Thomas, Martin, Potter, Edgcumbe and Kenchington be appointed onto the Electoral Review Working Party to formulate a response on behalf of Helston Town Council in respect of the Draft Cornwall Council Divisional Boundaries consultation.

The Town Clerk advised that he would arrange the first Working Party meeting for after the Cornwall Council consultation event on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **(2) Flora Day Decorations - Donations**

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

RESOLVED – that the £500 Flora Day Decorations budget be divided equally between the Helston AFC Youth Football Club and the Helston & Lizard Multiple Sclerosis Club as a donation at the request of Mr S Pascoe.

### **(3) Christmas Car Parking**

The Town Clerk advised that he had spoken to a local business who had contacted some other business owners within the town and they had advised that Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December would be their preferred day for free parking in Cornwall Council's pay & display car parks. Following a brief debate it was agreed to request that Cornwall Council provide free parking in all their pay and display car parks within Helston on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **(4) Twinning Visit – Sasso Marconi**

Councillors Mrs Boase and Thomas expressed an interest and it was agreed that they represent the Council on a small organising group to jointly arrange events including a civic visit by the Mayor of Sasso Marconi to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council recommended that a civic visit by the Mayor of Sasso Marconi be organised to coincide with Helston Town Council's Mayor Choosing Ceremony.

### **210. Schedule of Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 378-431 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £36,966.30.

(Councillor Thomas declared an interest in Account No. 426.)

### **211. Attendance at Meetings**

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

RESOLVED – that the written report submitted by Councillor Thomas in respect of the Furry Café be received.

### **212. 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 8.44pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**