

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: M H Thomas (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams

J Martin

T E Grattan-Kane

R J L Boase

Mrs G A Geer

P E Williams

Mrs F N E Boase

Mrs N Roberts

J P Radford-Gaby

A R Harrison

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

409. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Reverend Dorothy Noakes.

410. Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor D J Potter.

411. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

a) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Geer declared an interest in the Furry Café should there be any debate on the item.

b) Requests from Members for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

412. Police Matters

The Mayor advised that he had circulated a letter from the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary which contained a detailed explanation of the Service Level Agreement for engagement. He expressed the opinion that funding for the Police had increased which meant that many of the feared cuts had been averted but that some cuts would still inevitably be made.

413. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors and Community Link Officer

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she had been busy with planning applications in particular for HX1, HX2 and Beacon Parc. She advised that Cornwall Council had made the decision on its budget and confirmed that she had commented on the Cornwall Council Car Park Signage Review. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she had commented on the 'pop up sites' tender for the Penrose Amenity Area to express her concern that it needed to be fair to existing businesses and not discourage people from visiting the town centre. She advised that she also had concerns with the amount of litter which could be created if it was a food outlet which could be a problem as there was a limited number of bins in the vicinity. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the Community Chest Grant funding had finished for the current period but there appeared to be a new round which would commence in April.

Councillor R J L Boase advised that dog walkers going through St. Michaels Church Yard were clearing up after their pets but the bins in the church yard were not being emptied and asked who was responsible at it was a public thoroughfare and Cornwall Council maintained the Church Yard. Councillor Mrs Haycock confirmed that she would investigate the matter.

The Town Clerk thanked Councillor Mrs Haycock on behalf of Members for the £333 from her Community Chest Grant and advised that this funding together with a £72 grant from Coastline was being used to provide two new benches for the Beacon Parc Play Area.

In response to a question from the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that there was no further information on the planning applications she had mentioned as they were still under discussion.

Cornwall Councillor Martin entered the meeting advised that he had no information to report. He then offered to answer Members questions.

Councillor R J L Boase asked Cornwall Councillor Martin if he could discuss the issue he had raised regarding St. Michaels Church Yard with Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock.

The Mayor queried if there was any progress with the installation of cameras in the Sithney Common Hill lay-by as fly-tipping still appeared to be taking place. Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that cameras were a possibility but they needed to be installed at random. He further advised that there was no funding available for a fence and was of the opinion that the ownership of the land needed to be pursued. Councillor R Williams expressed concern regarding fly-tipping in Crasken Lane. Cornwall Councillor Martin expressed the opinion that education and enforcement would assist with the problem and suggested that if members of the public witnessed suspicious activities they should report the details to Cornwall Council.

b) Community Link Officer

The written report of the Community Link Officer, circulated prior to the meeting, was noted.

414. Public Participation

The Chairman of the South Kerrier Heritage Trust spoke in support of its grant application to be considered later in the meeting. She advised that a grant would be used for the design and first print of a Museum leaflet which would be sold for one pound to fund future print runs.

415. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 21st January 2016 be approved and signed as a true record.

416. Minutes of the Planning Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Martin, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 21st January 2016 and 4th February 2016, be received.

417. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 28th January 2016, be received.

418. Announcements

The Town Clerk informed Members that Councillor Grattan-Kane had joined the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee.

The Mayor advised that he had attended the following events:-

- A performance of Aladdin at the Epworth Hall;
- Helston Chamber Choir concert at St Michaels Church;
- Mayors meeting in Camborne;
- St Ives Feast;
- Family Engagement event in the Council Chamber; and
- The 365 exhibition in the Museum.

The Mayor then advised that the final Mayoress' crossword would be available the following Monday, with the prize being tea for two with the Mayor and Mayoress in the Guildhall on Flora Day.

419. Report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer

The Town Centre Regeneration Officer (TCRO) updated Members on his report (circulated prior to the meeting) and answered questions. Following an update on the Grylls Monument restoration, it was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Council delegated authority to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to enter into a formal Minor Works contract with KPK (Builders) Ltd for the sum of £29,446.67 upon receipt of official authorisation from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The TCRO then informed Members that Cory Environmental Trust had awarded £7,000 towards the project.

Also during this agenda item Members voted on a preferred name for the Ope that had become known as 'Peacocks Lane'. A number of suggested names had been submitted and Members individually voted for first, second and third choices. Members' votes were added to those of the Public Realm Board and the resulting preferred option was 'Upton Ope'. The TCRO advised that the residents living along the Ope would be consulted.

Referring to the Guildhall Planting Bed, the TCRO advised that a source for some cobbles had come forward. The cobbles would contrast with the existing and enhance the half Celtic Cross design. Councillor R Williams suggested that the Conservation Officer be consulted to approve the cobbles obtained. Following the discussion it was proposed by Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Mrs Geer, and

RESOLVED – that, with the approval of the Conservation Officer, the Council formally accept the revised D.A. Giles quotation dated 3rd February 2016 for the sum of £1,531.47 and purchase the cobbles from Mr Buchanan for the sum of £250.

Councillor R Williams requested that his vote against the Motion be recorded.

The Mayor thanked the TCRO for his report and due diligence.

420. The European Union referendum and possible impact to Helston

The Mayor advised that this item was the result of a member of the public addressing the Council at the January meeting. The Town Clerk read an email from the member of the public that suggested how the Town Council could research the effects of the Referendum vote on Helston specifically. The Mayor stressed that the Council would have to remain neutral if it were to conduct the research.

Councillor Radford-Gaby was of the opinion that the Council should not become involved as there would be enough information available to assist residents to make their decision. Councillor R J L Boase suggested that the Council could assist the public to locate the information if enquiries were received. On the proposition of Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by the Mayor, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that no further action be taken.

421. Twining Visit

The Mayor stated that he was privileged to visit Plougasnou and had made it clear to the Mayor of Plougasnou that she would be very welcome to visit Helston. The Mayor advised that he had not committed the Council to any expenditure but suggested holding a civic reception during the June visit.

Following the discussion it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Clerk investigate arrangements and bring a proposal for a twinning event back before Members.

422. The Queen's 90th birthday

Councillor Mrs Geer was of the opinion that the Council should organise an event to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday. Councillor Mrs Geer believed it was too late to make arrangements for the Queen's actual birthday in April but suggested holding an outdoor party in June – the Queen's official birthday. She then suggested replacing the portraits of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh that hung in the Chamber.

The Mayor advised that he had considered the lighting of a beacon to mark the occasion as it would be a very significant event.

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Roberts, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Councillors Mrs Boase and Mrs Geer investigate options for an event and report back to the Council.

423. The Furry Café

The Mayor advised that he had nothing new to report, but a meeting had been arranged to discuss the future of the Café.

424. Report of the Town Clerk

(i) Grants

a) Determination of whether a grant be awarded

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

- i) Helston Age Concern
- ii) Helston Community Martial Centre (Penrose Judo Club)
- iii) Helston & District Town Twinning Association
- iv) Helston in Bloom
- v) South Kerrier Heritage Trust

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

- i) Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust
- ii) Cornwall Blood Bikes
- iii) Helston Cricket Club
- iv) Helston & the Lizard Foodbank
- v) Swallows of Helston Gymnastics Club

b) Determination of amount of grant funding awarded

Following the debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and

RESOLVED – that:

- i) a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to Helston Age Concern for maintenance of the minibus;
- ii) a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to Helston Community Martial Centre (Penrose Judo Club) for the construction of a disabled toilet;
- iii) a grant of £500.00 be awarded to Helston & District Town Twinning Association to help and encourage young people to participate in twinning;
- iv) a grant of £600.00 be awarded to Helston in Bloom for the maintenance and enhancement of planting at the town's boundary stones; and
- v) a grant of £800.00 be awarded to South Kerrier Heritage Trust for the provision of a museum guide leaflet.

Councillor Mrs Boase requested that her abstention from the vote be recorded.

(ii) Bank Holiday On-street Parking

Members considered Cornwall Councillor Biscoe's negative response to the Town Council's petition to review bank holiday on-street parking regulations (previously circulated). Following a brief debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Mayor write to Cornwall Councillor Biscoe in response to his decision.

(iii) Pop-Up Sites

Members considered a letter from Cornwall Council's Public Space Team Leader, circulated prior to the meeting. Members expressed concern that they had not been consulted on the principle of pop-up traders at the Penrose Amenity Area and that the availability of the sites had already been put out to tender. During the discussion Members made the following points:-

- Such trading would inevitably create more litter that would be discarded on the ground or in the river;
- Food & drink trading would be in direct competition with the Coronation Park and National Trust cafes;
- Food & drink trading would attract HGV drivers that would take up valued free car parking space; and
- The car park was already very uneven and HGVs would further damage the surface.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to the Cornwall Council Public Space Team Leader to express the Town Council's concerns.

(iv) Replacement Handrails

Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor R Williams, seconded by Councillor Martin, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council contribute £500 from the Town Centre S106 fund to replace the handrails to the granite steps near the canon and at the bottom of Penrose Road.

(v) Guildhall Stairwell & Reception

This item was noted.

425. Authorisation of the payment of Accounts

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 549-601 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £28,032.91.

426. Attendance at Meetings

The written report submitted by Councillor Martin was noted.

427. 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 9.42pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor