

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 17TH MARCH 2016 AT 7.15 PM

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

R Williams
R J L Boase
Mrs F N E Boase

J Martin
Mrs G A Geer
Mrs N Roberts

D J Potter
T E Grattan-Kane

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

460. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Canon David Miller.

461. Presentation of Town Plaque

The Mayor presented John Eddy with a Town Plaque in recognition of his outstanding commitment to Flora Day.

462. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Radford-Gaby, Harrison and P E Williams.

463. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

a) Declarations of Interest

The Mayor and Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest in agenda item 8 as close friends of the Applicant for PA16/01445 and close friends of the next door neighbour for PA16/01442.

b) Requests from Members for Dispensations

The Town Clerk advised that a dispensation request had been received from Councillor Mrs Geer to allow her to speak and vote on matters relating to Planning Applications PA16/01445 and PA16/01442 (Agenda Item 8).

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council awarded Councillor Mrs Geer a dispensation for the meeting to remain in the meeting, speak and vote on matters relating to Planning Applications PA16/01445 and PA16/01442.

464. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors and Community Link Officer

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she was pleased Cornwall Council had refused the planning application to build bungalows on the Beacon Parc amenity space. She also informed Members that the usual wheelie bins would be sited in town for Flora Day and she was hopeful the existing bins would be emptied early on Flora Day morning. She then advised that she had been in discussions with Highways officers about installing drop curbs in Charles Bassett Close to assist residents with mobility scooters and asked Members to give some thought to the exact locations as there was a limited fund available.

Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock informed Members that she had reported the Town Council's request to open the Recycling Centre later and officers were investigating the possibility. She then gave apologies from Cornwall Councillor Wallis.

Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that a new Street Trading Policy would come into effect from 1st July 2016. He then invited questions.

Councillor R J L Boase enquired if Cornwall Councillor Martin had investigated the issue of the bins in St Michaels Churchyard not being emptied. Cornwall Councillor Martin replied that he had not had time but would do so.

465. Public Participation

A member of the public congratulated Councillor Grattan-Kane on his co-option onto the Council. He also congratulated Councillor Mrs Geer on her nomination to become Mayor in May. He then thanked the Council for its grant to Age Concern towards running its minibus.

The Chairman of the South Kerrier Heritage Trust offered to answer any questions regarding the South Kerrier Alliance and South Kerrier Heritage Trust's joint proposal (Agenda Item 16). There being no questions, she then informed the Council that the refurbished cannon would be returned to its plinth in front of the Museum the following week.

The Mayor and Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest and left the meeting at 7.39pm.

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs Geer) took the Chair at 7.39pm.

Members of the public spoke in opposition to planning applications PA16/01445 and PA16/01442 and made the following points:-

- Both sites were within the Conservation Area and he considered the granite retaining walls to be features of historic interest;
- It was considered the proposals were contrary to Policy 10 of the Cornwall Structure Plan and considered development should:-
 - Re-use previously developed land (brownfield sites)
 - Use other sites in urban areas
 - Extend existing urban areas;
- Objected to further bridging of the kennels which already overflowed due to heavy rain and blockages;

- Additional vehicular traffic crossing the footpath would increase the risk of accidents to pedestrians and other road users due to reduced visibility;
- The lack of previous planning history showed that development of the sites has not been considered realistic in the past;
- The retaining walls had been in place for over 100 years and served their purpose of retaining land 15 feet above;
- No evidence that there would be a visual improvement to the street scene;
- The existing properties opposite would be overlooked and lose morning light;
- There was no evidence that the developments would make a positive contribution to the Conservation Area; and
- Concerned about possible damage to the front of a cob cottage built on 1850.

The Applicant for PA16/01445 spoke in support of her application and made the following points:-

- The application site had no connection with the former school which was the other side of Shute Hill;
- The nearest listed buildings were the factory cottages;
- The proposal and that of her neighbour included a double driveway and parking; and
- The design would be in-keeping with the property next door, but this application was only seeking Outline Permission.

The Applicant for PA16/01442 advised that he was aware that there could be an existing issue with the retaining wall as it had collapsed nearby and so was nearing the end of its 80-year existence. He added there were already ten properties in Godolphin Road that had bridges across the kennel. He also stated that he would be prepared to agree a covenant restricting the roof height to not exceed those in Godolphin Road.

A close neighbour of Applications PA16/01442 and PA16/01445 spoke in support of the applications. He advised that his wall had collapsed and the walls to the application sites could be a danger to the public.

The Agent for PA16/01442 and PA16/01445 advised that the Conservation Area designation was not to prevent development, but to enhance the character of an area. The proposed properties would preserve the appearance of the area with stone frontages in place of the wall which was in a poor condition and could be replaced with a reinforced concrete wall. He then reminded Council that the application was to agree, in principle, that the development of the site was acceptable.

466. Planning Applications

- i) Planning Application PA16/01442
 Application Type: Outline Application
 Outline planning permission with all matters reserved: Erection of a dwelling
 Land rear of Pol Dor, Godolphin Road, Helston
 For Mr D Lewis*

Councillor Mrs Geer visited the application site and gave a presentation with the aid of photographs.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by Councillor Martin, and
RESOLVED – that the Town Council recommended approval of Application PA16/01442.

Councillor R Williams requested that his vote against the Motion be recorded giving the lack of a geological survey as his reason.

*ii) Planning Application PA16/01445
Application Type: Outline Application
Outline Application with all matters reserved for the
erection of a dwelling
Ioway, Sanctuary Lane, Helston
For Mr & Mrs R Haycock*

Councillor Mrs Roberts visited the application site and gave a presentation with the aid of photographs.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Roberts, seconded by Councillor Potter, and
RESOLVED – that the Town Council recommended approval of Application PA16/01445.

Councillor R Williams requested that his vote against the Motion be recorded giving the lack of a geological survey as his reason.

The Mayor and Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase re-entered the meeting at 8.18pm

The Mayor resumed the Chair at 8.18pm.

467. Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 18th February 2016 and Special Town Council meeting held on 25th February 2016 be approved and signed as a true record.

468. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 18th February 2016 and 3rd March 2016, be received.

469. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 8th March 2016, be received and the recommendations accepted.

470. Announcements

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

- Active Plus presentation
- Captain's dinner – presentation on Navy Apprenticeships
- Cornish Language evening at the Guildhall
- 58th birthday celebration of the Friendship Club (formerly Darby & Joan)
- Navy litter-pick of the grassed bank adjacent to the bowling green

The Mayor then advised that he was visiting Freeman Martin Matthews on his 77th birthday the following day. He further informed Members that the Mayoress' final crossword was available with proceeds going towards the publication of her book on Consorts of Helston.

471. 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.

During his update the TCRO advised that he had received written confirmation of the £36,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant and that works to the Grylls Monument had commenced.

The Mayor thanked the TCRO for his report.

472. Events Co-ordinator

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Helston Business Improvement Partnership had not submitted a further proposal regarding converting to a Community Interest Company (Min No.364/2015). He then advised that a joint proposal had been received from the South Kerrier Heritage Trust (SKHT) and South Kerrier Alliance (SKA), circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Clerk also advised that, as another option, he had produced a draft Job Description for an Events Co-ordinator post employed by the Town Council as requested by Members in January.

Members considered the detailed Proposal from the SKHT and SKA and following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council supports the South Kerrier Alliance & South Kerrier Heritage Trust's proposal and commits a minimum of three years funding of £7,000 per year from the Town Centre Management Section 106 funding.

473. Twinning Visit

Councillor Mrs Geer (Mayor-elect) advised that the Mayor of Plougasnou would be visiting Helston in mid-July and she had attended a Twinning meeting to discuss a programme for the visit. Councillor Mrs Geer then suggested combining Civic Sunday with a Twinning Reception on 10th July 2016. Members agreed for Councillor Mrs Geer and the Town Clerk to finalise the detail.

474. The Queen's 90th Birthday

Councillor Mrs Geer advised that an initial meeting had been held with the Coronation Park café proprietor to hold a tea party in the Park on Saturday 11th June 2016. In the advent of inclement weather, the Old Cattle Market building would be available. One suggestion was to invite Helston residents who would celebrate their 90th birthdays during the year to be guests of honour. The Town Band and Helston Chamber Choir had been contacted to perform but responses had not been received. The South Kerrier Alliance had agreed to publicise the event.

475. The Furry Café

The Mayor advised that some progress was being made to re-open the Furry café. Meetings had been held with Penwith Community Development Trust who trained volunteers and Cornwall Councillor Andrew Wallis and Charlotte Caldwell had met with Young People Cornwall to possibly run the cafe.

The Mayor advised that he soon hoped to have positive news about re-opening the café and would produce a written report for the next meeting.

476. Report of the Town Clerk

(i) Taxis

Further to Min. No.365(c)/2015, Members discussed the issue of taxis double and treble parking in Coinagehall Street. During the detailed debate Members considered the response to a letter by the Town Clerk to the Cornwall Council Senior Licensing Compliance Officer (circulated prior to the meeting). The Town Clerk advised that he had not received responses from the Police nor Cornwall Councillor Martin – Vice-Chair Licensing Committee.

At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Town Clerk continue to explore sending an email communication to the taxi drivers licensed to operate in the former Kerrier area;
- b) the Town Clerk report back the Council's concerns to the Police; and
- c) the Mayor write to Cornwall Councillor Bert Biscoe – Portfolio Holder for Transportation.

(ii) 'Pop Up Sites'

Further to Min. No.424(ii)/2015, Members considered a response to the Town Clerk's letter to the Cornwall Council – Public Space Team Leader (previously circulated). The Town Clerk advised that there had been no notification regarding the tender returns. It was agreed to defer this item until the successful tenders were made public.

(iii) Macebearer

This item was noted. The Mayor advised that he had written a thank you letter to Mr King.

(iv) Commemorative Medals

The Town Clerk circulated samples of a medal to commemorate the HM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council purchase 100 commemorative medals for distribution to the young people from the schools that take part in the 2016 Beating the Boundaries, Helston residents celebrating their 90th birthday in 2016 and others at the discretion of the Mayor.

(v) Street Naming

Members gave consideration to the proposed street name for a new development and then made other suggestions for the Town Clerk to forward to Cornwall Council's Address Management Officer.

477. Authorisation of the payment of Accounts

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 602-662 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £44,487.06.

478. Attendance at Meetings

The written report submitted by Councillor Martin was noted.

479. 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.

480. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Martin, 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.

481. Helston Library and One Stop Shop

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk circulated prior to the meeting. Following the debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by the Mayor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that

- a) the Town Council supports Cornwall Council’s proposal to continue running the Helston Library and One Stop Shop services with the two services co-located at the current library building; and
- b) to explore, in principle, taking over Isaac House pending further research into running costs and potential to sub-let.

Meeting closed at 10.03pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor