

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON**  
**ON THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2009 AT 7.15 P.M.**

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

**Councillors:**

R. Williams  
Mrs S.M.E. Swift  
P. Phillips  
R.J.L. Boase

K. Reynolds  
Mrs V.J. Matthew  
D.C. Swift  
Mrs F.N.E. Boase

R.R. Pryor  
M.H. Thomas  
J.P. Radford-Gaby

**Officers:** Mr C. Dawson (Town Clerk)  
Miss P.J. Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)  
Mr C. Bowcutt (Town Warden)

**154. Prayers**

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

**155. Apologies**

An apology for non-attendance was received from the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

**156. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Thomas declared an interest in Agenda item 15 as a Governor of Helston Community College.

**157. Police Matters**

The Town Clerk read a report on behalf of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary which included recent crime figures and those for the corresponding period from the year previous.

**158. Public Participation**

Mrs J Carroll expressed the opinion that the town did not celebrate its virtues sufficiently and looked untidy. Mrs Carroll advised that she was willing to assist to keep the town tidy and expressed the opinion that there must be other people who felt the same. The Mayor advised that the Council was also not happy with the condition of the town and, in addition to applying pressure on Cornwall Council, had also employed a Town Warden to assist. The Mayor further advised that the Town Council had formed a Keep Helston Tidy Working Party which, in partnership with other volunteer groups, organised volunteer litter and weed clearance events and confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.30pm.

Mr I Perry reiterated Mrs Carroll's concerns and made particular mention of the kennels. Mr Perry then spoke regarding the speed signage on the Porthleven Road and suggested that the speed limit signs be relocated. He also expressed concern with pedestrians crossing the Penzance Road via the granite steps between Coronation Park and Castle Green car park.

The Mayor advised that the steps were Listed and he was therefore of the opinion that they could not be blocked or moved. The Mayor further advised that Cornwall Highways had previously considered relocating the signs but it had not been possible to move them further down the Porthleven Road as the road was too narrow. Members requested that the Cornwall Councillor present take the concerns raised back to the officers. Members also expressed concerns with the condition of the kennels.

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Community Network Manager to provide an update.

Mrs C Chadwick advised that she had met with the West Area Manager and he had assured her that the weeds would be cleared from the kennels by the end of the following week using a combination of labour from Cornwall Council and the Community Pay Back Scheme.

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be resumed.

#### **159. Minutes**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009 be approved and signed as a true record.

**Councillors Reynolds and D.C. Swift abstained from the vote as they had not been present at that meeting.**

#### **160. Minutes of the Planning Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 16<sup>th</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009, be received.

**Councillor Reynolds abstained from the vote as he had not been present at one of the meetings.**

#### **161. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009, be received.

**Councillor Pryor abstained from the vote as he had not been present.**

**162. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009, be received.

**163. Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009, be received.

**164. Announcements**

The Mayor informed Members that the Helston Harvest Fair Committee had produced a website for the event which could be found at [www.helstonhf.co.uk](http://www.helstonhf.co.uk) and thanked Councillor R.J.L. Boase and Councillor Thomas for the work involved. Councillor Thomas advised that Mr M Plant who had designed the website was the person who deserved the thanks.

The Town Clerk advised that Mrs S Price had been appointed as the Mayor's Secretary and Administrative Assistant and would commence work on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009.

**165. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors and the Community Network Manager**

Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she had had a meeting with Mr C Biddick, Area Highways Surveyor. He had confirmed that re-surfacing of Trengrouse Way, the roundabout by the Spar shop and The Furry were due to commence on 30<sup>th</sup> November and the traffic lights were also due to be refurbished. Following the request at the last meeting, Councillor Mrs Haycock had enquired on the method of prioritising pot-hole repairs and had been advised that Highways would be willing to involve the Town Council in the decision. Councillor Mrs Haycock further advised that she would be meeting with the residents of Cross Street at the end of September and spoke on the building of a new Recycling Centre at Longdowns confirming that it would reduce the pressure of the Gay's Hill Recycling Centre which would remain open.

Mrs C Chadwick gave an update on the Community Network Panel Review advising that the meeting originally scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> September had been postponed. Mrs Chadwick confirmed that she had provided ongoing support to elected Members on specific issues such as fundraising and Community Payback Scheme projects and held meetings with West Area Managers on local issues such as the condition of the kennels. Mrs Chadwick then advised that she had given presentations and attended various meetings and made particular mention of the consultation event to discuss a 'Parks for People' Heritage Lottery bid. Mrs Chadwick further advised that Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change had been awarded funding from Children in Need and were looking to set up a project in Helston.

Councillor Clayton advised that the dry kennels was an end result of a problem within the Wendron Ward and confirmed that he had arranged a meeting to resolve the issue. Councillor Clayton informed Members that he had also arranged a meeting to discuss the Electoral Review and invited a representative from Helston Town Council to attend. Councillor Clayton then updated Members on the changes to the planning system and explained the role of the Strategic Planning Committee.

**166. Support for the Troops**

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that she had requested this item on the Agenda after seeing an article in the Press which had requested that boxes of goods to be sent to the troops in Afghanistan as there were many who rarely received parcels from home. Councillor Mrs Swift then advised that RNAS Culdrose had been given the Freedom of the town and requested that the Guildhall be used as a collection point for goods. She would then forward the items on to the appropriate person for inclusion in boxes to be sent to Afghanistan. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by the Mayor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Guildhall be used as a collection point for goods to be sent to the troops.

**167. Closer Formal Community Links between Helston Town Council and Helston Community College**

Councillor Reynolds expressed the opinion that it would be beneficial to have closer links with Helston Community College and advised that he had spoken to the Chair of Governors who was supportive and had suggested that a written request be made for a permanent representative on the Board of Governors. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Helston Community College to request the establishment of closer formal community links.

**168. Report of the Town Clerk**

**(1) Town Plan**

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

RESOLVED – that a Special Full Council meeting be held to discuss the options for the next stage of the Town Plan.

**(2) Godolphin Road – Proposed Bus Shelter**

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

RESOLVED – that this item be delegated to the Amenities Committee.

**(3) Training**

**(a) Code of Conduct**

This item was noted.

**(b) Planning Training**

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk pursue running a one day planning course for 25 delegates.

**(c) Power of Well-being**

This item was noted.

**(4) Churches Together – Live Nativity and Procession**

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council supported the procession and live nativity to be held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**(5) Temporary Prohibition of Traffic**

This item was noted.

**(6) Temporary Closure of Footpath**

This item was noted.

**(7) Allotments**

This item was noted.

**(8) Helston CCTV Cameras**

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

RESOLVED – that the Community Network Manager be requested to investigate if the camera located on Isaac House could be upgraded.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Phillips, that if it was not possible to upgrade the camera on Isaac House the suggestion of a sponsored web camera be investigated. This amendment failed.

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Community Network Manager to speak.

Mrs C Chadwick confirmed that she would investigate the possibility of upgrading the camera on Isaac House. Mrs Chadwick then expressed concerns regarding the introduction of a web camera.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be resumed.

**(9) Log of Complaints**

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and

RESOLVED – that the Log of Complaints be circulated to all Members periodically.

**(10) The Cober Centre**

This item was noted.

**(11) Clean Cornwall Summit**

Councillors Mrs Swift and Pryor advised that they wished to attend the Clean Cornwall Summit.

This item was noted.

**(12) Strengthening Local Democracy Consultation**

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council thank the National Association of Local Councils for the opportunity to participate in the consultation and advise that, as the Town Council was not a principal authority it did not wish to make further comment.

**(13) Electoral Review Consultation**

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to the Boundary Committee to reiterate the Town Council's previously submitted proposal.

The Town Clerk further advised that a meeting had been arranged to discuss the effect of the Electoral Review on Crowan, Sithney and Wendron on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August. On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Phillips, it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs Swift attend the informal meeting to discuss the Electoral Review.

**(14) South Kerrier Alliance Website**

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor R.J.L. Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the South Kerrier Alliance be given permission to include a link on their website to the Town Trail pages of Helston Town Council's website.

**(15) Community Green Spaces Seminar**

This item was noted.

**169. Report of the Town Warden**

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Warden be given permission to attend the Conference and Network Meeting at the South West Neighbourhood Resource Centre on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

**170. Schedule of Accounts for Payment**

On the proposition of Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, it was  
RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 143-169 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £12,409.52.

(Councillors Williams and Mrs Swift declared an interest in Account Nos. 169 and 167 respectively.)

It was agreed that the cheques would be signed by Councillor Williams and Councillor Mrs Swift.

**171. Attendances at Meetings**

Councillor Reynolds confirmed that he had attended the Cornwall Council Planning Committee Meeting and advised that an Application had been approved as there was other legislation to control noise nuisance. He then informed Members that a Statutory Authority could request the review of a premises licence. He then advised that his request for a review of the license for the premises named in applications PA09/00421/LBC and PA09/00424/F had been supported by the Planning Committee. It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council requested a review of the licence for the premises named in Applications PA09/00421/LBC and PA09/00424/F.

Councillor Phillips advised that he had circulated reports on the meetings he had attended in Members' folders.

Councillor Mrs Swift had attended three Cornwall Association of Local Council meetings, three Citizens Advice Bureau Meetings and the monthly Larger Local Councils meeting. Councillor Mrs Swift further advised that a full report was included in Members' folders.

**172. 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.

**173. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

On the proposition of Councillor Phillips, 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.

**174. Community Centre Building**

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) that contained correspondence from both the Council's Solicitor and Architect. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the Town Council's solicitor be authorised to send the draft letter to the Helston and District Community Association's Solicitor;
- b) that Councillors Mrs Swift and Reynolds and the Town Clerk meet with the Council's Solicitor and report back to a Special Full Council meeting; and
- c) the Town Council confirmed that it wished to seek an Order for the Claimants to provide security for costs.

It was further proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that, pending further research, the Town Clerk write to pdp Green Consulting Ltd to request that they take no further action on the Town Council's planning application at this time.

In addition it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that without prejudice and without affecting the ongoing legal dispute, the Town Council offer to sell the building to the Helston and District Community Association at the existing market value without planning permission.

**Meeting closed at 10.34pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**