

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 20TH JUNE 2013 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: J P Radford-Gaby (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams	Miss J A Hornsby	L C W Harris
R J L Boase	J Martin	M Knight
Mrs F N E Boase	M Upton	Mrs N Roberts
M H Thomas	Mrs G A Geer	

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

77. Presentation of a Town Plaque

The Mayor advised that the Town Plaque was the highest honour a Mayor could bestow and was second only to a nomination as Freeman. He advised that he had intended to present Mr Noel Perry with a Town Plaque in recognition of his years of service to local journalism but sadly he had passed away earlier in the week. The Mayor advised that the plaque was with Mr Perry's family and asked Reverend Dorothy Noakes to lead Members in a moment's silence in memory of Mr Perry.

78. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

a) Declarations of Interests

The Mayor declared an interest cheque No. 110499 on the Schedule of Accounts for Payment (Agenda item 18).

b) Requests from Members for Dispensations

The Town Clerk advised that a request for a dispensation had been received from Councillor Miss Hornsby to allow her to speak and vote on matters relating to the Helston Business Improvement Partnership. Councillor Miss Hornsby was one of two Council representatives on the HBIP Board of Directors but did not own a business in the town centre.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council award Councillor Miss Hornsby a dispensation, until the May 2014 Annual Meeting, to remain in meetings, speak and vote on matters relating to the Helston Business Improvement Partnership.

79. Police Matters

The Mayor extended a welcome to WPC Butcher who presented a detailed report which included recent crime figures and those for the corresponding period from the year previous.

The Mayor advised that he had been asked by a member of the public to pass on their concerns regarding the speed of some of the taxi drivers along Church Street. WPC Butcher confirmed that the Police would look at the issue.

Councillor Upton thanked the Police who had attended the Coronation Tea Party and the European Market. The Mayor thanked the Police for their assistance with Freedom Parade.

Councillor Miss Hornsby advised that it had not been possible to arrange a 'Police Ride Along' previously, and asked if this was still possible expressing the opinion that it could be beneficial for the Council particularly for newer Members. WPC Butcher advised that this was something the Police would like to do if a mutually convenient date could be arranged and outlined what would be included.

A member of the public advised that when the bus stopped on the crossing by the Fairground Car Park on the Porthleven Road, the vehicles overtaking it were causing difficulties for pedestrians crossing the road. WPC Butcher advised that the Police would monitor the issue.

80. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors and the Community Network Manager

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that despite her promotion to Portfolio Holder she would still make every effort to attend Town Council meetings. Councillor Mrs Haycock then gave a detailed report on her activities in which she made particular mention to the completion of the Belmont Road Crossing, the amendments to the road markings, the obstruction of the path to Fitzsimmons Close, and the Cross Street Traffic Survey. Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock then showed Members a Seagull-proof refuse bag that were available at a cost of £3.50.

The Mayor advised that Helston Town Council had delivered a leaflet regarding the Seagull-proof bags to a targeted area.

In response to a question Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she would forward the Evidence Forms for the path near Fitzsimmons Close to the Town Clerk. In response to a further question Councillor Mrs Haycock advised she would investigate whether there was any flexibility in the application of the legislation for the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers.

The Town Clerk advised that he had written to Cornwall Council to request the interest from the Section 106 monies and had received a reply stating that Cornwall Council would not consider paying it over, and asked for the Local Member's view. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that if it was not written into the Section 106 Agreement it could not be paid over. The Town Clerk advised that, from the information he had received, he had been informed it would not be paid over as there was no policy on the matter and requested Councillor Mrs Haycock's assistance in her capacity as the Cornwall Council Local Division Member. Councillor Mrs Haycock confirmed that she would do what she could to assist.

In response to questions Councillor Mrs Haycock confirmed that there was a set procedure for writing to residents regarding refuse problems which had to be followed and she was making investigations into the Helston Business Park but there was no information to report.

The Mayor referred to Councillor Mrs Haycock's comments regarding the Cross Street Traffic Survey and asked if there was any further information on the Residents meeting. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the Town Council had called the original meeting and so would need to rearrange one. The Mayor expressed the opinion that, as Cornwall Council had cancelled the previous meeting they should reschedule it.

Apologies were received from Cornwall Councillors Martin and Wallis.

b) Community Network Manager

Mrs M Hardy introduced herself as the new Community Network Manager and advised that Mrs Chadwick had hoped to be present to give a handover and say goodbye but had been unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. Mrs Hardy then explained her role and the reasons for the restructure.

In response to a question Mrs Hardy confirmed that she would be based in Isaac House and would normally be there all day on Mondays but was generally out of the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

81. Public Participation

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest and left the meeting at 8.00pm.

A member of the public advised that it had been a decision of the Town Council to press for a meeting with the residents of Cross Street and advised that he was disappointed to receive a letter confirming that the meeting had been cancelled as no one from Cornwall Council was willing to attend. The member of the public then questioned who ran Cornwall Council - whether it was the Officers he paid for or the Councillors he elected.

Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock confirmed that the Cornwall Council Officer who had been due to attend the meeting had initially explained that it was best to hold the meeting after the traffic survey had been conducted. When he had received a further request to attend a meeting he was available but subsequently was asked by Cornwall Council to attend training.

A member of the Helston & District Town Twinning Association spoke regarding the recent visits from the twin towns of Plougasnou and Sasso Marconi and explained the benefits of twinning.

Councillor R J L Boase and Mrs Boase returned to the meeting at 8.13pm.

A representative of the Helston Business Improvement Partnership (HBIP) urged Members to support the HBIP funding request and offered to answer Members' questions.

Councillor Knight congratulated the HBIP on the news of being shortlisted for two national awards. The Mayor added his congratulations.

A member of the public advised that there had been two accidents on Cross Street that week giving further details.

A member of the public advised that it was sad news that Mr Noel Perry had passed away advising that he was a great man who was very dedicated to his job and took a great interest in the people of the town. The member of the public then queried when the bus shelter in Coinagehall Street mentioned at the previous meeting was expected to be installed. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Mayor had only mentioned that the provision of a bus shelter was likely to be discussed following receipt of the Section 106 public realm funding and not that a bus shelter was being installed.

82. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on the 14th May and 16th May 2013 be approved and signed as a true record.

83. Minutes of the Planning Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Miss Hornsby, seconded by Councillor Thomas, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 2nd May and 6th June 2013, be received.

84. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 23rd May 2013, be received.

85. Minutes of the Play & Young People Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Play & Young People Committee meeting held on the 3rd June 2013, be received and the recommendation accepted.

86. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 11th June 2013, be received and the recommendations accepted.

87. Announcements

The Town Clerk advised that he wished to formally congratulate Mrs S Price, Mayor's Secretary and Administrative Assistant, on obtaining the 'Working With Your Council' qualification.

88. Trengrouse Way Closed Public Conveniences

Councillor Mrs Geer advised that she had requested this item be included on the Agenda as she had a lot of people complaining to her that the Trengrouse Way toilets were closed. She advised that the toilets were well used and now they were closed people were going to the toilet outside the building. She expressed the opinion that the toilets should be opened immediately at whatever cost with the discussions to take place after they were opened. She suggested that it only needed one working toilet and a group could be set up to seek sponsorship. She expressed the opinion that the Town Council had a long way to go to obtain the respect of the people and suggested this was the first step.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the toilets could only be opened immediately if Cornwall Council could be persuaded to open them as the Town Council could not insure them without a lease Agreement in place.

A detailed debate ensued during which it was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that Standing Order 1.14 be suspended to allow the Community Network Manager to speak.

Mrs Hardy advised that she could arrange for a deep clean to be carried out to rectify the current problem at the toilets and confirmed that she could facilitate conversations with Cornwall Council regarding the public conveniences.

On the proposition of Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Knight, it was

RESOLVED – that Standing Order 1.14 be resumed.

At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by Councillor Upton, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk, with the assistance of Mrs Hardy, contact Cornwall Council with a view to immediately re-opening the Trengrouse Way Toilets.

89. Helston Town Plan and Town Plan Questionnaire

Councillor Knight advised that she had spoken with the Town Clerk regarding the Town Plan and had read through the survey report on the Town Plan Questionnaire. She expressed the opinion that the original questionnaire had been badly drafted with most of the questions being relevant to other bodies. She also expressed the opinion that the survey report was not coherent. Councillor Knight advised that a working party could have gone through the results to determine what was in the Town Council's remit and the results could have been published with a number of quick gains being actioned without delay. Councillor Knight advised that Members were there to support the residents of Helston and needed to focus on what they were there for and what they could do. She advised that the Town Council needed to publish a synopsis of the results to show the public what it can do and Members needed to move on and deal with the issues. A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Knight, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council set up a Working Party to review the results of the Town Plan Survey with a view to producing a synopsis for early publication.

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

RESOLVED – that Councillors Williams, Mrs Boase, Miss Hornsby, Upton, Harris, Knight and Mrs Roberts be appointed onto the Town Plan Survey Working Party.

In response to a query Councillor Knight agreed to take the lead role in the Town Plan Survey Working Party.

The Town Clerk then requested Members' thoughts on the production of the Town Plan. Following further debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Knight, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk suspend work on the Town Plan pending the results of the Town Plan Survey Working Party.

90. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Sealing of Documents

On the proposition of Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, it was

RESOLVED – that authority be given for the application of the Council's common seal to the Agreement transferring the Falmouth Road Bus Shelter from Cornwall Council.

(2) Councillor Training

The Town Clerk confirmed that two training courses provided by the Cornwall Association of Local Councils were full and advised that he would circulate the dates of the newly arranged training events.

91. Adjournment

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

RESOLVED – that the Meeting stood adjourned at 9.32pm.

The Meeting resumed at 9.35pm.

92. Report of the Town Clerk (Cont.)

(3) Opening of Police Stations to the Public

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Miss Hornsby, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write back to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall to clarify what constituted a business case.

(4) Planning Committee Vacancy

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

RESOLVED – that Councillor Harris be appointed onto the Planning Committee.

93. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that the Accounts, with the exception of cheque 110499, as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £27,045.97.

The Mayor declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting at 9.54pm.

Councillor Thomas took the Chair at 9.54pm.

On the proposition of Councillor Miss Hornsby, seconded by Councillor Upton, it was

RESOLVED – that cheque 110499 be certified for payment in the total sum of £500.00.

The Mayor returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair at 9.57pm.

Councillor Williams and Councillor Mrs Boase agreed to sign the cheques.

94. Attendance at Meetings

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

RESOLVED – that the written reports submitted by Councillors Miss Hornsby and Martin be received.

95. Items for the next Agenda

The Mayor requested that Members contact the Town Clerk's office seven working days prior to the meeting to place items on the following Full Council Agenda.

96. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, 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.

97. Requests from Members for Dispensations

Councillor Upton submitted a request for a dispensation in respect of the Helston Business Improvement Partnership (HBIP) as he did not own a business in the town centre but was a member of an organisation that subscribed to the HBIP.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council award Councillor Upton a dispensation, until the May 2014 Annual Meeting, to remain in meetings, speak and vote on matters relating to the Helston Business Improvement Partnership.

Councillors Martin, Mrs Geer and Knight declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting at 10.16pm.

98. Funding request from the Helston Business Improvement Partnership

Members considered an application for funding from the Helston Business Improvement Partnership (circulated prior to the meeting). Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Miss Hornsby, seconded by Councillor Upton, and

RESOLVED – that the Helston Business Improvement Partnership be granted £90,000 to fund the employment of a Business Improvement District / HBIP Chief Officer for a two-year period.

Meeting closed at 10.18pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor