

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2014 AT 7.15 PM

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

R Williams
R J L Boase
Mrs F N E Boase
M H Thomas

Miss J A Hornsby
J Martin
M Upton
Mrs G A Geer

M Knight
Mrs N Roberts
A R Harrison

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

540. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

a) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Upton reminded Members that he had a dispensation which allowed him to participate in the debate in respect of Agenda item 24.

Councillor Miss Hornsby reminded Members that she had a dispensation which allowed her to talk and vote on matters relating to the Helston Business Improvement Partnership and the South Kerrier Alliance. She then declared an interest in Agenda item 24 as a member of the South Kerrier Alliance and a Governor at St. Michaels School.

Councillor Knight reminded Members that she had a dispensation in respect of the Helston Business Improvement Partnership.

The Mayor declared an interest in Account No. 536 of the Schedule of Accounts for payment.

b) Requests from Members for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

541. 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 informed WPC Butcher of problems concerning refuse trucks collecting waste in Lady Street. The Mayor advised that he believed the Cornwall Council Divisional Member had assisted with the issue in respect of the Cornwall Council collections but confirmed that the problem continued with the commercial refuse collection vehicles. He advised that the vehicles reversed into Lady Street which he believed was illegal and also obstructed access to some of the properties advising that residents were receiving abuse if they complained. WPC Butcher advised that she had spoken to the drivers of the vehicles but, as they were only acting on the instructions of their employers, she needed to speak to the companies to try to come to an arrangement. She advised that it was a difficult issue as the vehicles could not enter the road from the other direction. The Mayor queried if the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers could take any action regarding the issue. WPC Butcher advised that this would not be within their remit.

In response to questions WPC Butcher clarified the difference between a Stage 1 and Stage 2 letter for antisocial behaviour and confirmed that she would support the repair of the street lights on the Bulwark Estate as a preventative measure.

Councillor Williams expressed concern that water running across the road from the car wash in the Sithney Common Hill lay-by could freeze in cold weather and cause a hazard to vehicles. WPC Butcher advised that she would investigate the issue.

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

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

The Town Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock.

Cornwall Councillor Martin referred to the issue of refuse collection in Lady Street to express his concern that members of the public were receiving abuse from Cornwall Council employees and advised that, whilst the area was not in his Division, he would take the matter further. In respect of dog fouling and litter complaints, he advised that there were cards available that could be completed if an incident was witnessed.

Councillor Upton asked Cornwall Councillor Martin if he could pass his thanks to Councillor Mrs Haycock for the reinstatement of the road markings in Church Street.

b) Community Network Manager

The Mayor advised that the Community Network Manager had provided a written report circulated with the Agenda.

543. Public Participation

A representative of the Helston & District Town Twinning Association spoke in support of its invitation for the Mayor and ensuing Mayor's to become the President of the organisation. He asked Members to consider the invitation as a way forward to encourage twinning initiatives and show support for the organisation and then outlined activities the Association were involved with. He then updated Members on the activities of Helston Athletic Football Club expressing the opinion that the town should be very proud.

A member of the public expressed his congratulations to Helston Rugby Club for their achievements.

A member of the public welcomed Councillor Harrison and advised that he liked to see the Deputy Mayor seated in his new position around the table. He then expressed his disappointment with the level of response to the Regeneration Questionnaire.

A representative of the local Press asked Councillor Thomas if he had an update on his research into the Deputy Mayor's Chain and the links between Helston and Port Augusta. Councillor Thomas gave an update on his investigations. A member of the public advised that he had found information on the Chain and the links to Port Augusta which he would pass on.

Councillor Williams advised that he had been contacted by residents who were concerned about dog fouling confirming that he had asked them to attend the meeting but expressed the opinion that they had not come as they were afraid of retribution. Councillor Williams expressed the opinion that the Council needed to do something about the issue and advised that people needed educating. Councillor Upton suggested that the reporting cards should be made available in the Town Clerk's office. Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that the cards were available and expressed the opinion that nobody should be victimised.

544. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th February 2014 and the Special Town Council meeting held on 27th February 2014 be approved and signed as a true record.

545. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 20th February 2014 and 6th March 2014, be received.

546. Minutes of the Play & Young People Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Play & Young People Committee meeting held on the 27th February 2014, be received.

547. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 11th March 2014, be received.

548. Notes of the World War One Working Party

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

RESOLVED – that the Notes of the World War One Working Party meeting held on the 17th February 2014, be received and the recommendation accepted.

549. Licensing Consultative Group

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

RESOLVED – that the Notes of the Licensing Consultative Group Meeting held on 6th March 2014, be received.

550. Announcements

The Mayor informed Members that a thank you card had been received from PCSO Pascoe and on behalf of the Council wished her well with her future career.

The Mayor then expressed concern with the increasing problem of litter in the town expressing the opinion that the situation had deteriorated further with members of the public discarding rubbish bags and allowing domestic rubbish to be strewn over the paths. He reminded the public that they were responsible for their rubbish until it was collected and were required to clean up any split bags, advising that seagull-proof bags could be obtained. The Mayor expressed the opinion that the current situation was not acceptable and advised that if necessary Fixed Penalty Notices would have to be issued.

551. Statement from Cornwall Council regarding the Helston Town Framework

The Town Clerk advised that the Cornwall Council Officer had requested that the item be treated as a confidential matter.

552. Discussion on the current committee system

Councillor Knight expressed the opinion that the present Committee system had outgrown its efficiency. Councillor Knight advised that the Calendar of Meetings for the civic year 2014/15 consisted of 74 meetings over 69 days which was almost 1½ times the number of meetings if there was a Full Council meeting every week. She then outlined approximate populations and number of meetings for other Town Councils in the area. Councillor Knight emphasised that Helston Town Councillors were volunteers with lives outside of the building and the staff also had a life outside and it was Members' duty to ensure that the work/life balance was not impinged upon. Councillor Knight then outlined the benefits of reverting to a non-committee system advising that every member would hear everything at the same time so there would be no misunderstandings, no overlap or delay, and allow Members to have a more balanced time commitment to their duties. With fewer meetings for the staff to prepare there would be less need for them to work in the evenings.

The Town Clerk agreed that there were too many meetings but expressed the opinion that it was too simplistic to revert to just Full Council meetings giving the work of the Planning Committee as an example. He advised that some meetings could be reduced and also a system of delegation could be introduced confirming that he would like to see a middle ground.

A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Knight, seconded by Councillor Williams, that the Council revert back to a system where all decisions were dealt with at Full Council from the new civic year. The Motion failed.

It was further proposed by Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that a decision on the Committee system be made at a separate meeting of Full Council on Tuesday 15th April at 7.30pm.

553. Report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer

The Town Centre Regeneration Officer (TCRO) advised that he had held two public meetings regarding the results of the Public Realm Questionnaire and confirmed that the notes would be written up and circulated. He advised that useful information had come out of the questionnaire and without pre-empting the Council's decision there were a number of straight forward projects which could be delivered fairly quickly and suggested the Public Realm Project Board discuss the issues with a view to making a recommendation to the next Full Council

meeting. The TCRO advised that the Project Board would be meeting with three prospective Members the following week. He then updated Members on 'Peacocks Lane' confirming that the advice had been received from NALC which confirmed that the Council could not arrange or contribute to the resurfacing of the lane as the Council could be acting unlawfully without the owner's consent and would also have a continual duty of care. The TCRO stated that the advice was disappointing but not unexpected and confirmed that he had not given up on tracing the owner.

In response to a question the TCRO advised that a number of organisations were looking at signs and advised that it would be helpful to bring the organisations together. Councillor Upton advised that the WWI Working Party was proposing signs for the town trail and the TCRO suggested that collaboration would be beneficial. Councillor Harrison expressed concern with the signs at the entrance to Helston suggesting that they needed to be improved. The Mayor advised that the roundabouts were a previous project of the Deputy Mayor but they could only be maintained by Cormac contractors and the issue was being investigated by the Helston Business Improvement Partnership.

Councillor Martin announced that, as an individual, he owned Peacocks Lane and invited anyone who wished to come forward to challenge his ownership. The Town Clerk advised that he believed that the ownership of the land would need to be advertised. The TCRO expressed the opinion that, when claiming land as his own, it would need to be fenced off and sole use demonstrated for a number of years.

A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Knight, that the Town Council write to the owner of 'Peacocks Lane' to request permission to resurface the lane.

Councillor Miss Hornsby requested a recorded vote.

Councillors Williams, Upton and Knight voted for the Motion. The Mayor and Councillors R J L Boase, Mrs Boase, Thomas, Miss Hornsby, Mrs Geer, Mrs Roberts and Harrison voted against the Motion. Councillor Martin abstained from the vote. The Motion failed.

554. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Flora Day – St John Ambulance Service

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council accepted that the requested share of the First Aid Cover for Flora Day be paid over at a cost of £309.20.

(2) Helston Business Park

Councillor Thomas advised that during his conversation with Coastline Housing he had made them aware of the Council's views regarding a proposed development. This item was noted.

(3) Helston & District Town Twinning Association

It was proposed by Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Harrison, and

RESOLVED – that the incumbent Mayor and future Mayor’s of Helston Town Council accept the invitation to become President of the Helston & District Town Twinning Association.

The Mayor declared an interest in the following item. The Deputy Mayor took the Chair at 9.24pm.

555. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 496-549 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £27,061.77.

It was agreed that the cheques would be signed by Councillor Mrs Boase and Councillor Miss Hornsby the following day.

The Mayor resumed the Chair at 9.31pm.

556. Attendance at Meetings

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

RESOLVED – that the written reports submitted by Councillors Martin, Miss Hornsby and Knight together with the report by the Town Clerk be received.

Councillor Martin advised that there was an error on his report and it should read HX3 not HX2.

557. Items for the next Agenda

The Mayor requested that Members contact the Town Clerk’s office ten days prior to the next meeting to place items on the following Full Council Agenda.

558. 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 items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

559. To consider correspondence from the Council's solicitor

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Knight, and

RESOLVED – that the Mayor call a Special meeting to discuss the advice.

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

RESOLVED – that in accordance with Minute No. 442. (1)/ 2013 a special meeting to discuss the advice be called for the 15th April 2014.

It was agreed that this meeting was only to discuss the advice and the grant applications would not be considered.

560. Confidential Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Town Plaques

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, that ten Town Plaques be purchased from B & M Leisure.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Williams, seconded by the Mayor, that ten Town Plaques be purchased from York Insignia. The Amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that ten Town Plaques be purchased from York Insignia at a cost of £417.90.

561. Statement from Cornwall Council regarding the Helston Town Framework

The Town Clerk read a statement from Cornwall Council regarding the Helston Town Framework.

Meeting closed at 10.13pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor

List of Payments made between 01/03/2014 and 31/03/2014

<u>Voucher No.</u>	<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Cheque Ref</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>	
496	03/03/2014	Mr I Harvey t/a Zenith Enterprises	110808	237.00	Additional Brackets for benches	
497 - 507	15/02/2014	Salary Related Expenses	110809 - 110819	15,583.50	Salary Related Expenses	
508	20/03/2014	Fast.co.uk	C/Card1	23.48	Broadband	
509	20/03/2014	Amazon (IDCARDIT Ltd)	C/CARD2	7.99	Stationery	
510	20/03/2014	Amazon (Outdoortips)	C/CARD3	2.55	Stationery	
511	20/03/2014	Amazon (GiGi Mall)	C/CARD4	8.98	Stationery	
512	20/03/2014	Pitchcare.com	C/CARD6	54.78	Weedkiller	
513	20/02/2014	Francotyp Postalia Ltd	DD12	250.00	Postage	
514	22/03/2014	Siemens Financial Services Ltd	Std Ord	145.44	Fire Alarm Lease	
515	20/03/2014	BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions	DD2	143.76	Photocopier Lease (April 2014)	
516	20/03/2014	O2	DD3	67.78	Regeneration Officers Mobile	
517	20/03/2014	Berendsen UK Ltd -Formerly Sun	DD4	76.92	Mat Hire (April 2014)	
518	20/03/2014	British Telecom	DD5	22.63	565761	
519	20/03/2014	Cormac Solutions Ltd	110820	3,106.20	Cleaning & repairs to Pub. Cons.	
520	20/03/2014	Cornwall Council	110821	137.13	North Ward Election	
521	20/03/2014	DLM Sign Products (UK) Ltd	110822	75.60	Channel & Clips for signs	
522	20/03/2014	Economy Jetting Services	110823	25.00	Unblock Monument Pub Cons	
523	20/03/2014	Helston News & Advertiser	110824	24.00	Meetings Advert	
524	20/03/2014	Martin Luck Group Ltd	110825	164.75	Stationery	
525	20/03/2014	New squest Media Group	110826	134.40	Distribution of Questionnaire	
526	20/03/2014	Primary PC Solutions Ltd	110827	42.00	Server Monitoring	
527	20/03/2014	Randle Thomas Solicitors LLP	110828	86.40	Professional Fees	
528	20/03/2014	Summit Roofing Solutions	110829	80.88	Repairs to resolve water leak	
529	20/03/2014	Viridor Waste Management Limit	110830	36.48	Waste Management	
530	20/03/2014	Angove, F G	110831	25.00	Honorarium	
531	20/03/2014	Cooke, P J	110832	25.00	Honorarium	
532	20/03/2014	Dawson, C	110833	210.23	Travel Expenses	
533	20/03/2014	Helston & District Carers Group	110834	500.00	Grant	
534	20/03/2014	Moran, J	110835	25.00	Honorarium	
535	20/03/2014	One and All Judo Group	110836	500.00	Grant	
536	20/03/2014	Radford-Gaby, Cllr J P	110837	500.00	Mayor's Allowance	
537	20/03/2014	Sithney Cornish Wrestling Club	110838	500.00	Grant	
538	20/03/2014	Swallow s of Helston Gymnastics Club	110839	500.00	Grant	
539	20/03/2014	Upperton, P	110840	25.00	Honorarium	
540	20/03/2014	Sage Uk Ltd	110841	360.00	Payroll Software Licence & Support	
541	20/03/2014	South West Play	110842	940.20	Deposit - Works Play Areas	
		VOID	110843			
542	20/03/2014	Notice-It Ltd	110844	525.00	Notice Board - Carey Parc	
543	20/03/2014	Cornwall Council	110845	40.00	Road Closure Civic Sunday 8/6	
544	20/03/2014	Cornwall Council	110846	40.00	Road Closure Civic Sunday 20/7	
545	20/03/2014	Petty Cash	110847	60.98	Subsistence, Refreshments etc.	
546	20/03/2014	Randle Thomas Solicitors LLP	110848	216.00	Professional Fees	
547	20/03/2014	KBG Chambers	110849	1,500.00	Professional Fees	
548	20/03/2014	British Gas	DD6	21.25	Electricity Guildhall Pub Cons	
549	20/03/2014	British Gas	DD7	10.46	Electricity Monument Pub Cons	
			Total Payments	27,061.77		
		Signatures of Councillors that signed the cheques:				