

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 18TH MAY 2017 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams

M H Thomas

T E Grattan-Kane

R J L Boase

J Martin

Rev D P Reed

Mrs F N E Boase

Mrs N Roberts

R F Edgcumbe

Officers: Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Mrs J Chambers (Mayor's Secretary & Administrative Assistant)
Mr M Searle (Town Centre Regeneration Officer)

The Mayor congratulated Councillors Thomas and Martin for being elected to Cornwall Council and Councillor Wallis for his re-election. She also wished Councillor Wallis well for his Term of Office as Mayor of Porthleven.

3. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Potter.

4. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

a) Requests from Members for Dispensations

The Town Clerk advised that two dispensation requests had been received from the Mayor - Councillor Mrs Geer.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council awarded Councillor Mrs Geer a dispensation for the civic year to remain in meetings and participate in debates but not vote on matters relating to the Epworth Hall.

It was further proposed by Councillor Grattan-Kane, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council awarded Councillor Mrs Geer a dispensation for the civic year to remain in meetings and participate in debates but not vote on matters relating to the Helston Flora Day Association.

The Town Clerk also advised that Councillor Grattan-Kane had submitted a dispensation request.

On the proposition of Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Council awarded Councillor Grattan-Kane a dispensation for the civic year to remain in meetings and participate in debates and vote on matters relating to the South Kerrier Heritage Trust.

5. Police Matters

The Mayor extended a welcome to WPC Butcher who gave a report on recent Police activities in the town.

6. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that the Cornwall Councillors were in a busy period of induction training. He then advised that the Council Leader had not yet been nominated and therefore the Cabinet had not been formed. He then informed Members that he was already involved in case work involving speeding traffic in Wendron Street, the appearance of properties in the town centre and road adoption.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas reiterated that it had not yet been agreed who would take up the role of Cornwall Council Leader, but stated that a decision would have to be made before 23rd May 2017. He then advised that he too was already involved in case work including: traffic management of the Redruth Road for which he intended to hold a public meeting, Cross Street as part of a whole town traffic management plan, and investigating why two residential roads remained un-adopted.

Cornwall Councillor Wallis thanked the Town Council for closing the Porthleven Road on Flora Day and reminded Members that he was always available for questions.

7. Public Participation

A member of the public congratulated the three Cornwall Councillors on being elected. He then referred to Agenda Item 12 advising that elsewhere in the country Principal Councils had taken occupiers of untidy land to court and successfully prosecuted.

Another member of the public spoke to reinforce the contents of his letter to be considered by Members later in the meeting at Agenda Item 14(6). He suggested areas of litter could be cleared by the Community Payback scheme and then offered to assist the Council. WPC Butcher advised that she could not promise extra patrols but would highlight the issues in team briefings. She further advised that photographs of dog fouling should be forwarded to Cornwall Council's Dog Warden.

Councillor Williams informed Members that many groups including young people assisted with the pre-Flora Day Town Tidy and were picking up the remnants of anti-social behaviour which was not acceptable, pledging that the Amenities Committee would investigate.

8. 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 19th April 2017 be approved and signed as a true record.

Councillor Edgcumbe abstained from the vote as he had not been present as a member of the Council at that meeting.

9. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 20th April and 3rd May 2017, be received.

10. Announcements

The Mayor reminded Members of the following upcoming events:-

- Wednesday 24th May Beating the Boundaries
- Sunday 11th June Summer Park Party – Coronation Park
- Thursday 15th June HMS Seahawk Freedom Parade
- Sunday 2nd July Civic Service

11. Report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer (TCRO)

The Town Centre Regeneration Officer updated Members on his report (circulated prior to the meeting) advising that the public realm works at the bottom of Castle Hill steps were due to commence the following week and the artwork for the Monument Walk shelter would be presented to Members at the June meeting.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the local Highways & Environment Manager had confirmed the Castle Hill steps would be resurfaced during 2017.

12. Condition of Property

Councillor Reverend Reed informed Members that several members of the public had complained to him about the condition of a property on Trengrouse Way and enquired what could be done. The Town Clerk advised that complaints regarding waste and vermin needed to be made to Cornwall Council’s Environment Team and the Mayor requested the assistance of the Press to publicise contact details.

Councillor Williams informed Members that the Town Clerk’s office had explored various avenues but had got nowhere. The Town Clerk advised Members that the Town Council could request that Cornwall Council issue a S.215 Untidy Land Notice.

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

RESOLVED – that the item be deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

13. Unadopted Roads

Councillor Thomas informed Members that he had been making enquiries as to why two residential roads remained un-adopted and requested the backing of the Town Council to continue. Following a brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Martin, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council give Councillor Thomas the mandate to make further enquiries into why Crosswhella Fields and Cunnack Close remained unadopted.

14. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Annual Audit of Accounts for 2016/17

The Council considered the Annual Report of Mr S Hudson, the Internal Auditor, together with supporting financial statements for submission to the External Auditor, all of which documentation having been circulated as Appendix I to the Town Clerk's Report.

The Town Clerk drew Members' attention to the level of General Reserves held and the recommendation by the internal auditor to assess the level of reserves required in the future. The Town Clerk then advised that he would place an appropriate item on the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee agenda for its meeting on 6th June.

It was thereupon proposed by Councillor Grattan-Kane, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

(i) Section 1 of the Annual Return – the Annual Governance Statement, be approved and, upon completion in the affirmative in all respects, be signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk; and

(ii) The Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2017 as set out in the Annual Return, be approved, and duly signed on this Council's behalf by the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

(2) General Power of Competence

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

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council re-adopt the General Power of Competence from 18th May 2017 until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

(3) Civic Voice Awards 2017

This item was noted.

(4) Youth Engagement Event

Following a brief discussion it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a maximum budget of £75.00 be allocated to the Youth Engagement event scheduled for 4th July 2017.

(5) Town Council Elections – North Ward Vacancy

This item was noted.

(6) Correspondence – Apparent Drugs Use

Members considered a letter from a member of the public regarding the amount of apparent drug use in the town.

The Mayor was of the opinion that Helston did not have the level of problems experienced by other local towns and to make too much fuss would attract unwarranted attention.

Councillor Martin suggested initiating an awareness campaign with the assistance of the Press, posters and a programme of education.

Councillor Thomas advised that Helston Community College already had a drugs education programme and the College and Council could work together. He then suggested enquiring how other towns approached drugs issues.

Councillor Reverend Reed informed Members that some people came to Helston to escape towns that had drug problems. He then suggested installing a needles disposal bin in the public conveniences. He was of the opinion that the Council needed a strategy as the problems of homelessness and drug abuse could quickly escalate.

Following the detailed debate it was agreed to bring ideas back to the July Full Council meeting.

(7) South Western Ambulance Service

This item was noted.

15. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 77-109 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £42,669.93.

16. Dates and Times of Meetings

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

RESOLVED – that the Calendar of Meetings 2017/18 be received.

17. Trevenen Exhibition

It was noted that the Trevenen Exhibition Governors for the ensuing Municipal year continue to be all Members of the Town Council and that meetings be convened as and when necessary.

18. Appointment of Representatives to Committees and Outside Bodies

It was agreed that:

- a) Councillors Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor), R Williams, Mrs F N E Boase, M H Thomas, D J Potter, Rev D P Reed and R F Edgcumbe be appointed to the Amenities Committee;
- b) Councillors Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor), R J L Boase, M H Thomas, J Martin, Mrs N Roberts and Rev D P Reed be appointed to the Planning Committee; and
- c) Councillors Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor), R J L Boase, Mrs F N E Boase, M H Thomas, J Martin, Mrs N Roberts, T E Grattan-Kane and R F Edgcumbe be appointed to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee.

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

RESOLVED – that Councillors R J L Boase, M H Thomas, D J Potter and Reverend Reed be appointed to the Youth Engagement Working Party.

It was agreed that representatives be appointed to Outside Bodies for the ensuing Municipal year as detailed below:-

a) **West Cornwall CCTV Group**

Councillor M H Thomas (Deputy – Councillor T E Grattan-Kane)

b) **Cornwall Association of Local Councils**

Councillor J Martin (Deputy – Councillor M H Thomas)

c) **Helston Community College**

Councillors R Williams, M H Thomas, J Martin, T E Grattan-Kane and Reverend D P Reed

d) **Helston in Bloom**

Councillors R Williams and R J L Boase

e) **Helston & the Lizard Works**

Councillor M H Thomas

f) **Helston and South Kerrier Community Network Panel**

Councillor J Martin (Deputy – Councillor D J Potter)

g) Helston Welfare Trust: Nominated Trustees

Councillor R Williams (appointed until 5th December 2017)
Councillor Mrs G A Geer (appointed until 20th May 2021)
Councillor Mrs F N E Boase (appointed until 20th May 2021)

h) Loe Pool Management Forum

Councillor R Williams

i) The Furry Youth Café Directorate

Councillor M H Thomas

19. 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.

Councillor Reverend Reed requested an item to discuss how the Town Council might assist funding the purchase of furniture for the new-build Helston Community College.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor