

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 21st AUGUST 2008 AT 7.15 P.M.

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

Councillors:

R. Williams	R.J.L. Boase	Mrs F.N.E. Boase
Mrs S.M.E. Swift	K. Reynolds	R. R. Pryor
N.C. Martin	Mrs V.J. Matthew	
P. Phillips	D.C. Swift	

Officers: Mr C. Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P. J. Lavelle (Finance and Committee Assistant)
Mr C Bowcutt (Town Warden)

147. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillor Keay who was caring for his wife, and the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary.

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

RESOLVED – that the Apologies be received and accepted.

148. POLICE MATTERS

The Town Clerk read a detailed report prepared by PC Treloar which included recent crime figures and those for the corresponding period from the year previous and an update regarding P.A.C.T.

149. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Harris advised Members of a problem he had experienced whilst walking along the Public Footpath near Lower Nansloe Farm and the lack of footpath signage. He also expressed concern that, if Kerrier District Council granted a license to allow an unlimited number of events at Coronation Park, there would be more issues regarding late night drinking and anti social behaviour.

The Mayor confirmed that the Entertainments License did not include alcohol which would require a separate license application, and requested that the Cornwall County Council Local Members investigate the footpath issues.

Mr Williams spoke generally about crime prevention as opposed to current policing appearing to be reactive.

Mr Ivan Perry welcomed the Mayor as President of Age Concern and thanked Councillor Williams for the previous two civic years. He then stated that the Conservation Officer may not be in favour of bus shelters in Coinagehall Street but was aware that Redruth had installed shelters in its Conservation Area.

The Mayor reminded Mr Perry that the Council could only concern itself with Helston's Conservation Area.

Councillor Williams was of the opinion that the PCSO's were not seen around the town as often as previously. Councillor Reynolds stated that they did have a visible presence in the town and were extremely diligent.

150. MINUTES

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on 10th July 2008 and Town Council meeting held on 17th July 2008 be approved and signed as a true record.

151. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 17th July and 7th August 2008, be received.

152. MINUTES OF THE HARVEST FAIR COMMITTEE

Councillor Mrs Matthew advised that she had given her apologies but they had not been recorded.

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 7th August 2008, be received and the recommendations approved.

153. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

a) Local County Councillors

Councillor Phillips reported on the progress of One Stop Shops and confirmed the continued use of the existing Kerrier District Council offices in Helston. He also updated Members on the County Council's attempts to retain the Post Offices in Cornwall that had been ear-marked for closure.

Councillor Mrs Lyne requested that the Council install a bus shelter on the Falmouth Road. Councillor Mrs Swift advised that the subject was on the agenda for the forthcoming Amenities Committee.

Councillor Curnow congratulated the pupils and staff of Helston School for the excellent GCSE and A'Level results.

b) Local District Councillors

Councillor Williams praised the work of Kerrier District Council officers who were operating under very difficult circumstances.

Councillor Mrs Swift agreed with Councillor Williams' previous comments and then advised that Kerrier District Council had arranged a date for Code of Conduct training for those councillors that had previously been unable to attend. She further advised that Kerrier would be organising training for Town and Parish Clerks.

Councillor Mrs Swift then congratulated the Clies for raising funds at its fate during terrible weather and paid tribute to the Helston Town Band Youth Section.

Councillor Mrs Haycock expanded on the reasons for Kerrier District Council's license application for Coronation Park. She then advised that Local Members would be invited to a Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss the future of the Folk Museum. She also informed Members that Councillor Reynolds would be giving a talk to Transition Helston regarding Renewable Energy and available grants.

154. TOWN PLAN

The Mayor advised that he was of the opinion that Helston required a Town Plan giving the following reasons:-

- As a Quality Council, Helston Town Council should have its own plan and vision;
- Following the transition to the Unitary Authority, the former Kerrier District Council plans may not be applicable;
- Helston Town Council must represent the town's people and other organisations may have a different vision for the area.

Following the debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Phillips and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk set in motion the procedure to produce a Town Plan.

155. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Councillor Martin advised that First had taken over from Truronian and expressed concern at the size and suitability of buses allocated to town routes. He was of the opinion that some buses were too long for some streets and estate roads and questioned where had the hopper buses gone. Councillor Martin suggested that representatives of the Company visit the town to refresh their knowledge of Helston routes.

After a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to First to request that responsible persons visit Helston to inspect and reappraise the bus routes and size of vehicle.

156. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Councillor Phillips advised that he had contacted Cornwall County Council's Portfolio Holder expressing concerns regarding the lack of Civil Parking Enforcement in Helston. In the response Councillor Phillips had been informed that Helston was patrolled by the Civil Parking Enforcement Officers twice a week on differing days and by different officers. It was emphasised that the officers could only act where waiting restrictions were in place.

At the conclusion of a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Pryor and unanimously

RESOLVED – to send a letter to Cornwall County Council's Transport & Waste Management Department to request:

- (a) urgent additional coverage of Helston during the day and evenings, and
- (b) to attend a public meeting.

157. COUNCIL COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND MEMBERSHIP OF OUTSIDE BODIES

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated). The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Playgrounds Working Party and Guildhall Refurbishment Working Party had been abolished and that a Play Committee had been created, and Members were required to make the appropriate appointments.

The Mayor advised that he would stand down from the Amenities Committee and stand for the Play Committee.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Pryor and
RESOLVED – that Councillor Martin be appointed to the Amenities Committee.

Councillor Martin abstained from the vote.

The Mayor then asked for an indication of those Members that wished to be considered to sit on the Play Committee. Along with the Mayor, Councillors R.J.L. Boase, Reynolds, Mrs Matthew, D.C. Swift and Pryor were duly elected.

The Mayor then advised that, due to work commitments, he was unable to attend meetings of the Mayors Parlour Campaign Team nor the Helston & Lizard Health Board but both were happy for another Member to attend.

It was then proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Pryor and
RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs Swift represent the Council on the Mayors Parlour Campaign Team.

It was further proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Martin and
RESOLVED – that Councillor Williams represent the Council on the Helston & Lizard Health Board.

158. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

(1) Bus Shelters

The Town Clerk advised that the County Council design engineer was concerned that the Town Council, by deferring a decision on the design of the bus shelters twice, would delay the implementation of a Scheme and possibly lose the available funding. He therefore suggested going out to consultation immediately using plans that indicated the location of shelters without specifying the actual design.

Councillor Phillips informed Members that the County Council Local Members' budgets pledged by Councillor Curnow and himself had already been recalled by the County Council and were no longer available.

On the proposition of Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Williams it was
RESOLVED – that the County Council Design Engineer proceed with the consultation.

The Mayor and Councillor Mrs Swift abstained from the vote.

(2) Training

(a) Cornwall County Training Partnership Schedule of Events 2008/09

This item was noted.

(b) Project Management: Delivering Successful Projects

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk attend the training.

(c) Fire Awareness Training

The Town Clerk advised that Fire Awareness training was available from the Cornwall County Fire Brigade at its training centre in Portreath. Councillor Martin confirmed that the training facilities were excellent. It was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk arrange Fire Awareness Training with the Cornwall County Fire Brigade for the sum of £350.

Councillors Mrs Swift, Phillips, Mrs Boase and Pryor expressed the wish to attend the training.

(d) Member Development Learning Resources

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

RESOLVED – that the Member Development Learning Resource ‘Chairing Meetings’ be purchased at a cost of £50.

(e) Planning for Local Council Clerks

This item was noted.

(3) Premises License Application – Coronation Park Events Area

This item was noted.

(4) Former Cattle Market Site

The Mayor questioned why the public consultation was conducted using a draft document. After a short debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by the Mayor and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to Kerrier District Council requesting that the Town Council be given the opportunity to view and comment on the final Transport Statement prior to a planning application being submitted.

(5) Local Member Information

The Mayor expressed disappointment at the response received from Kerrier District Council and following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by the Mayor and unanimously

RESOLVED – that

(a) the Town Clerk write to all five Kerrier Local Members to request that when they receive information involving Helston that the Town Clerk is informed so that the Town Councillors can be notified;

(b) the Town Clerk write to the Chief Executive of Kerrier District Council to express, in the strongest terms, the Town Council's disappointment; and

(c) a copy of the letter to the Chief Executive is sent to the Leader of Kerrier District Council – Councillor Hicks.

(6) CCTV Upgrade

Councillor Mrs Swift informed the Council that she had information regarding this item and requested that it be considered as a confidential matter. On the proposition of Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew it was

RESOLVED – that the item be considered as a confidential matter and deferred to the end of the meeting.

(7) Kompan Limited – Play Seminar

The Mayor enquired if any Member would like to attend. The Town Clerk advised that, with Council's permission, he would attend. Councillor D.C. Swift also indicated he would go if he was not working. It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk attend the Seminar with Councillor D.C. Swift if able.

(8) Community Centre Building

The Town Clerk updated Members on the progress made by the Assets Working Party regarding the Community Centre building. Following a brief debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Martin and

RESOLVED – that the Assets Working Party appoint an Architect to conduct a preliminary survey of the Community Centre building and produce an outline Scheme for a fee not to exceed £1,000.

(9) Staff Training

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

RESOLVED – that the Finance & Committee Clerk attend First Aid Appointed Persons training at a cost of £32.50.

(10) King George V Play Area

This item was noted.

159. REPORT OF THE TOWN WARDEN

Members considered the Town Warden's Report, asked questions and made observations. On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Martin it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to County Highways to establish when the Penzance Road crossing at St Johns would be repaired.

It was also proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Reynolds and

RESOLVED – that the Town Warden attend the Empowering Citizens and Communities Road Show on 22nd October 2008.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to the relevant Authorities to complain about a vehicle used for advertising purposes parked on a grass verge on Sithney Common Hill.

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to Cornwall County Council to complain about the amount of weeds in Helston and the Town Warden take a more proactive approach.

160. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 136-167 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £19,280.72.

(Councillors Williams and R.J.L. Boase declared an interest in Account Nos. 166 and 154 respectively.)

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

161. ATTENDANCES AT MEETINGS

The Mayor advised Members that they were only required to report on meetings they had attended as representatives of the Town Council and it was not necessary to report on Committee meetings, meetings as Members of other Authorities or civic occasions.

Councillor Mrs Swift had attended three CALC meetings and a Board meeting of Citizens Advice Bureau.

162. 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.

163. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

164. CCTV Upgrade

Councillor Mrs Swift advised Members of meetings she had attended regarding the CCTV Upgrade. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Martin and seconded by the Mayor that the Town Council take no action.

As an amendment it was proposed by Councillor Phillips and seconded by Councillor Reynolds that the Town Clerk write to Penzance Town Council to advise that Helston Town Council could not support it on the issue. The amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED - that the Town Clerk write to Penzance Town Council to advise that Helston Town Council could not support them on the issue.

165. Community Centre

(a) On the proposition of Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Phillips it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the draft letter by Randle Thomas Solicitors be approved and sent.

(b) A letter from Andrew George MP was noted.

Meeting closed at 9.37pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor