

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON**  
**ON THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2008 AT 7.15 P.M.**

**Present:** Councillor R. Williams (Town Mayor) in the Chair

**Councillors:**

Mrs S.M.E. Swift  
N.C. Martin  
P. Phillips  
R.J.L. Boase

N.J.C. Devenish  
K. Reynolds  
Mrs V.J. Matthew  
D.C. Swift

Mrs F.N.E. Boase  
R.R. Pryor

**Officers:** Mr C. Dawson (Town Clerk)  
Miss P. J. Lavelle (Administrative Assistant)

**382. PRAYERS**

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Andrew Hill.

**383. FARMERS MARKET**

The Mayor extended a welcome to Alastair Cameron, Chair of the South Kerrier Alliance Natural & Built Environment Group, who explained the group's proposal for a Farmers Market and sought the Council's support. He then responded to Members' questions. The Mayor advised Mr Cameron that an item to discuss the Farmers Market would be included on the Agenda for the 20<sup>th</sup> March meeting.

**384. APOLOGIES**

An Apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Keay as his wife was unwell. The Town Clerk informed Members that Councillor Pryor was having an operation on his knee and would be unable to attend meetings for a few weeks. The Town Clerk further advised that Councillor Keay had requested a leave of absence until April.

On the proposition of Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, it was

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the Apologies be received and accepted; and
- b) the leave of absence be discussed as a confidential item.

**385. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Swift declared an interest in item 1(c) of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 14) as a member of the Epworth Hall Management Group. Councillor D.C. Swift also declared an interest in item 1(c) of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 14) as his wife was a member of the Epworth Hall Management Group.

Councillors R.J.L. Boase and Mrs Boase declared an interest in items 7 and 13 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 14) as committee members of the Royal British Legion and the Helston & District Town Twinning Association. Councillor Phillips also declared an interest in item 13 of the Town Clerk's Report as a member, and related to a member, of the Helston & District Town Twinning Association. Councillor Phillips also declared an interest in item 2 of the Town Clerk's Report as a member of Cornwall County Council.

**386. MINUTES**

The Town Clerk informed Members that Councillor Mrs Haycock had contacted him to confirm that she had been nominated onto the One Cornwall Joint Scrutiny Committee and not the One Cornwall Committee (Min. No. 346 b)/2007). It was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that the name of the Committee in Minute No. 346 b)/2007 be amended to read the One Cornwall Joint Scrutiny Committee.

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008 be approved subject to the above amendment and the Special Town Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008 be approved and signed as a true record.

**387. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 17<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008, be received and the recommendations approved.

**388. JOINT TOWN TWINNING COMMITTEE**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Joint Town Twinning Committee meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008, be received and the recommendations approved.

**389. MINUTES OF THE HARVEST FAIR COMMITTEE**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008, be received.

**390. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that at a private meeting of Members, held immediately prior to the Council Meeting, Councillor Niall Devenish had been proposed as Mayor and Councillor John Boase as Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2008/2009.

The Town Clerk advised that RNAS Culdrose had provisionally set a date of Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008 for Freedom Parade.

**391. POLICE MATTERS**

The Mayor extended a welcome to PC Treloar who presented a detailed report which focused on the forthcoming Partners and Communities Together ‘PACT’ meeting. PC Treloar then responded to Members’ questions.

**392. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr I Perry stated that he hoped more people would attend the forthcoming PACT meeting and then expressed concerns with the safety of pedestrians crossing Porthleven Road stating that he would like to see a form of traffic control. PC Treloar advised that the matter would be raised at the PACT meeting. Mr Perry then gave Councillor Pryor his best wishes for his operation.

Mr J Mitchell suggested that the induction loop system was in need of refurbishment. He then expressed concerns that insufficient wheelie bins were provided for Flora Day which in turn meant that the Kennels could not be run because they filled with litter and flooded. Mr Mitchell was of the opinion that the Kennels should be running throughout the town on Flora Day as they were a historic feature of Helston. The Town Clerk advised that Kerrier would be providing 12 wheelie bins. Mr Mitchell expressed concerns that this would be inadequate. Mr Mitchell also asked whether the Council had been advised of the works being carried out by South West Water over Flora Day and requested that the owner of the Willows be contacted to explain the significance of the building which was deteriorating in condition.

Mr M Upton, Chair of the Epworth Hall Management Group advised that a lease had been signed at the end of December and works to develop the community facility could be progressed.

### **393. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

#### **a) Local County Councillors**

Councillor Phillips advised that the works to the pavement in Monument Road had been completed and work had commenced in Meneage Street. Councillor Phillips also advised that the Helston Job Centre was going to remain open part time and further improvements to Trewennack were due to commence in the near future.

Councillor Devenish questioned the timing of the work on Church Hill. Councillor Phillips agreed to make further enquiries.

#### **b) Local District Councillors**

Councillor Mrs Taylor advised that the work of Mustard Seed would be included in the Lent Lectures at Truro Cathedral.

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that Kerrier District Council was setting the Council Tax rate and the Cabinet had proposed a 1.5% increase. Councillor Mrs Swift also informed Members that on 18<sup>th</sup> February she had hosted the winners of the Youth Panel, one of whom was from Helston Community College, and gave them an insight into the workings of Kerrier District Council. Councillor Mrs Swift advised that she had attended the first meeting of the Older Peoples Forum at which she had been elected Vice-Chair and confirmed the details of the two launch days. She also advised that she had chaired a meeting with the unions, staff and members of the One Cornwall team to obtain an update.

### **394. REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK**

#### **(1) Grants**

Six grant applications were individually considered.

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be suspended to allow representatives of the organisations to speak in support of their applications prior to them being determined.

**(i) ACT1**

A representative from ACT1 spoke in support of the grant application and made the following points:

- The group had 80 youth members and held two workshops a week;
- The group was run by volunteers;
- It was important that the group was inclusive and it recognised that costly activities were difficult for people on a low budget so the cost of each session was kept to 50p;
- The request for £500 was to cover the cost of a coach to take 57 children to see Dr. Doolittle at the Bristol Hippodrome;
- The children were paying the cost of the ticket but a percentage would not be able to attend if they had to pay the travelling costs as well; and
- The trip to the theatre would be the first experience of a professional theatre for many of the children.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and unanimously

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £250.00 in respect of coach travel to the theatre in Bristol.

**(ii) Cornwall County Playing Fields Association**

It was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Boase, and

RESOLVED – that no grant be awarded to the Cornwall County Playing Field Association and that the Town Clerk contact the organisation to explain the reasons why the Council were unable to give a grant.

**(iii) Epworth Hall**

Mr Mark Upton spoke on behalf of the Epworth Hall Management Group in support of their grant application and made the following points:

- Seating was an integral part of using the hall as a theatre;
- The Group was committed to using part of the hall as a community space so folding seating was necessary;
- The second hand seating was found at a cost of £9000 which included the dismantling of the seating, shipping and reassembly;
- The cost of new seating was estimated at £45,000;
- The Group applied for a grant to purchase the seating but were unsuccessful;
- The Group had accrued approximately 200 hours voluntary labour installing the seating;
- They had obtained sponsorship of most of the seats with only 12 available which had raised £4,400 including gift aid which left a short fall of £5600; and
- The balance had been loaned to the Epworth Hall Management Group by private individuals.

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £500.00 in respect of the Theatre Seating Project.

**Councillor Phillips voted against the motion.**

**Councillors Mrs Swift and D.C. Swift declared an interest and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.**

**(iv) Helston & Kerrier Music Society**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £100.00 in respect of the Helston & Kerrier Music Society.

**(v) Helston School Jazz Orchestra**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Martin, and unanimously

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £250.00 in respect of the Helston School Jazz Orchestra.

**(vi) 50+ Over 50s Leisure Week**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £100.00 in respect of the Over 50s Leisure Week.

**Councillor Martin declared an interest due to his voluntary activities and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.**

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

RESOLVED – to resume Standing Orders.

**(2) Cornwall County Fire Brigade – IRMP Service Plan 2008/09**

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

RESOLVED – that Councillors respond to the questionnaire as individuals.

**(3) Town Shields**

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

RESOLVED – that 10 Town Shields be purchased at a cost of £25.95 each.

**(4) The Old Prison**

This item was noted.

**(5) Jobcentre Plus**

This item was noted.

**(6) West Cornwall CCTV Upgrade**

It was agreed that suggestions regarding the positioning of cameras be forwarded to the Town Clerk.

Councillor Mrs Swift advised Members that the CCTV was charged at a cost of £12 per household. On the Proposition of Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Devenish, it was

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to Kerrier District Council to express Members’ concern that ratepayers were being charged £12 for the provision of CCTV when members of the CCTV Fundraising Committee were assured that there would be no charge to the ratepayers.

**(7) Royal British Legion – Poppy Support**

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, it was proposed that no donation be given towards the purchase of a ‘Building Poppy’.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by the Mayor, that a grant of £100.00 be ring fenced to go with a further donation the following year to make up the balance of £400.00.

The amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that a grant of £100.00 be ring fenced to go with a further donation the following year to make up the balance of £400.00.

**(8) Partners and Communities Together**

This item was noted.

**(9) Kerrier Older People’s Forum**

This item was noted.

**(10) Military Training**

This item was noted.

**(11) Annual Minerals & Waste Monitoring Report 2006/07**

This item was noted.

**(12) Police Authority Liaison Meeting - Kerrier**

This item was noted.

**(13) Thematic Networking of Twinned Towns Conference**

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and

RESOLVED – that a decision be deferred until Members had a reasonable expectation of the availability and time table for the grant funding.

**(14) One Cornwall Parish and Town Council Engagement Events**

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

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs Swift and the Town Clerk attend the One Cornwall Parish and Town Council Engagement Event on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**395. REPORT OF THE TOWN WARDEN**

Councillor Mrs Swift congratulated the Town Warden on his report. The Town Warden then responded to Members' questions at the conclusion of which the item was noted.

**Councillor Devenish took the Chair at 9.22pm**

**396. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 348-378 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £11,562.24.

(The Mayor declared an interest in Account No. 378.)

It was agreed that the Cheques would be signed by the Mayor and Councillor Mrs Swift.

**The Mayor resumed the Chair at 9.24pm**

**397. ATTENDANCES AT MEETINGS**

Councillor Pryor advised that he had attended a South Kerrier Alliance meeting regarding the digital takeover.

Councillor Mrs Boase had attended the CALC Conference and AGM together with Councillor R.J.L. Boase and the Town Clerk.

Councillor Mrs Matthew had attended two Farmers Market Working Group meetings, one Natural and Built Environment Group meeting, one South Kerrier Alliance Coordination meeting and the Preparing for Local Government Review Seminar.

Councillor Devenish had attended the PACT Development meeting together with Councillor Mrs Swift

Councillor Phillips had attended the Code of Conduct training together with the Mayor and Councillors Mrs Swift, Martin, Devenish, Reynolds, Mrs Matthew, D.C. Swift, Mrs Boase and Pryor. Councillor Phillips also attended Kerrier District Councils' Planning training session on the changes to delegated powers with Councillor Martin and Miss Lavelle.

Councillor Mrs Swift had attended the Citizens Advice Bureau AGM at which she was re-elected Chair and two Citizens Advice Bureau meetings. She had also met with Sergeant Pascoe at the Helston Police Station to discuss various issues in the Town, and the Electoral Commission to look at the Boundary Review.

The Mayor had attended several Church Services.

The Town Warden had completed his Core Induction Training at Weston-Super-Mare and attended a Pub Watch meeting.

The Town Clerk had attended the Preparing for Local Government Review Seminar and gave a detailed report.

**398. 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.

**399. COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Members considered correspondence from the Council's Solicitor (previously circulated) and following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council's Solicitor be instructed to serve notice on the Trustees of the Helston & District Community Association to seek possession of the Community Centre building.

The Town Clerk advised Members of correspondence he had received from the Helston Camera Club. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Helston Camera Club be asked to convene a meeting with all the Community Centre user organisations to draft a list of questions which would be answered by the Town Council.

**400. HANGING BASKETS FOR 2008**

Consideration was given to a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) regarding the provision of Hanging Baskets for Coinagehall Street and The Guildhall.

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

RESOLVED – that the quotation to supply, install and maintain 26 baskets be accepted at a total cost of £2,185.00.

**401. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Following a detailed debate, it was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council did not grant the requested leave of absence on the grounds that, whilst Members had sympathy with the Councillor's personal circumstances, he had attended Kerrier District Council and Coastline meetings which were minuted in the public domain and the Mayor write to him to that effect.

**Meeting closed at 10.22pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**