

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON TUESDAY 22ND MARCH 2011 AT 7.00 PM

Councillors: R J L Boase (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
Mrs S M E Swift
K Reynolds
Mrs V J Matthew

D C Swift
Mrs F N E Boase
R R Pryor

M H Thomas
J P Radford-Gaby
Mrs W A Radford-Gaby

Cornwall Councillors:

A Robertson

Mrs J A Haycock

A Wallis

Officers: Mr C Dawson - Town Clerk

547. Absent

Councillor Devenish was absent without giving an apology.

548. Public Participation

Mr Upton requested clarity on the existing procedure for Cornwall Councillors' reports at Full Council meetings and why the previous procedure had been changed. The Town Clerk advised that the current Standing Orders required Cornwall Councillors to submit written reports for circulation as an appendix to the agenda and for the Cornwall Councillors to verbally update on items contained in the report and to answer Members' questions. He further advised that the reason for the change was to shorten the length of meetings as Full Council and Committee meetings had been restricted to a maximum of three hours, and also to allow decisions to be made on issues contained in the reports as the required legal notice of items to be discussed would have been served.

549. Full Council Procedure for Receiving and Considering Reports from Cornwall Councillors

Councillor Reynolds enquired where the suggestion of written reports had come from. Councillor Mrs Swift advised that it was contained in an email to the Town Clerk from Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock. Councillor Mrs Haycock then confirmed that the email included the suggestion that verbal updates should also be given at the Full Council meeting.

Councillor Williams suggested that Members did not look back, but discuss what would be the best for the Town going forward.

Cornwall Councillor Robertson enquired why the discussion was taking place in a Special Full Council meeting. The Town Clerk advised that it enabled the Town Council to make decisions that would be implemented from the scheduled April Full Council meeting.

Cornwall Councillor Robertson stated that it was up to the Town Council how it held its meetings, however, the three Cornwall Council Local Members were from a separate sovereign body and did not have to attend, but wanted to do so to keep the Town Council and the public informed and to answer questions. Councillor Robertson then suggested that the Cornwall Councillors revert to giving oral reports but lasting no more than three minutes and if the report was taking too long, the Mayor or Chairman could intervene. Councillor Robertson also suggested that the Reports from Cornwall Councillors item be moved up the agenda to precede the item for Public Participation thus allowing members of the public to ask them questions.

Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock added that there was a need for Cornwall Councillors to speak at the meeting as they could not be aware in advance of items on the agenda for discussion and may have information relevant to the debate.

When questioned, Councillor Robertson confirmed that the Community Network Manager was a Cornwall Council officer and he had instructed her not to attend the Full Council meetings until the procedure for reporting had been resolved.

Councillor Reynolds enquired whether Cornwall Councillors Mrs Haycock and Wallis were in agreement with the three minute restriction. They both answered in the affirmative.

Following the discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that

- (a) Cornwall Councillors give verbal reports to Full Council lasting a maximum of three minutes each;
- (b) The Community Network Manager continues to provide written reports and verbally update at the Full Council meetings;
- (c) The item to receive reports from Cornwall Councillors and the Community Network Manager be moved up the agenda to precede public participation; and
- (d) Standing Orders be amended accordingly.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor