

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON**  
**ON MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014 AT 7.00 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

**Officers:** Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)

**453. Council Vehicle**

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor advised that, contrary to a report in the local Press, the vehicle would be a van primarily for officer use and not a car for councillors.

The Mayor then listed the extra services that the Council had taken on, including public conveniences and equipped play areas, and was of the opinion that a vehicle was essential for the officers to conduct their duties.

Councillor Mrs Geer advised that, in her view, due to the economic climate, it was the wrong time to acquire a vehicle. Councillor Knight agreed adding that clear evidence was required as to the need for a van.

In response to a question the Town Clerk advised that each weekly playground inspection took between thirty and forty-five minutes plus walking time to and from each site. To hire a vehicle each week in the current financial year would have severely overspent the vehicle hire budget.

In response to Councillors Mrs Geer and Knight, Councillor Williams advised that, in a period when Cornwall Council was cutting staff and budgets, this was the very time the Town Council needed its own vehicle to be able to take over the services cut by the Principal Authority.

Councillor Knight clarified that she agreed the staff should not be using their own vehicles, but a regular van hire would be more economic than acquiring a permanent vehicle.

Councillor Thomas spoke in favour of a vehicle with Town Council livery suggesting that it would highlight what the Council was doing.

It was then proposed by Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, and

**RESOLVED** – that the Council proceed with the acquisition of a vehicle under paragraph 1 of 4.2.3 in the Town Clerk's report and the cost come from the Devolved Services budget.

Councillor Knight requested a recorded vote.

Members voted as follows:-

Councillors Mrs Roberts, Upton, Martin, Miss Hornsby, Thomas, Mrs Boase, RJL Boase, Williams and the Mayor voted for the Motion.

Councillors Mrs Geer and Knight voted against the Motion.

**Councillor RJL Boase left the meeting at 7.36pm.**

#### **454. Polling Cards**

The Town Clerk advised that the provision of Polling Cards for the North Ward by-election would cost between £1,000 and £1,200. He then informed Members of Council decisions regarding the provision of Polling Cards for by-elections since 2009.

Councillor Thomas was of the opinion that it was the Council's civic duty to provide Polling Cards to inform the electorate of the by-election and urged Members to vote for issuing them.

In response to questions, the Town Clerk advised that Polling Cards would only be issued if there was a contested election, postage was included in the estimate and the Council had sufficient budget to cover the cost.

Following the debate, it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Upton, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council issued Polling Cards for the forthcoming by-election in the North Ward.

#### **455. 2014/15 Budget**

The Council considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) that contained the final draft budget for the Financial Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 as recommended by the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee.

Councillor Upton observed that the proposed £15k council vehicle budget should be removed as the council vehicle Resolution from earlier in the meeting (Min. No. 453) stated that the costs would be met from the Devolved Services budget.

Councillor Knight questioned the requirement of a £35k budget for CCTV. The Mayor responded advising that no definite costs had been received from Cornwall Council so the sum was a worst case scenario to be able to ratify the overall budget within the extended deadline set by Cornwall Council.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Miss Hornsby, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the draft casual user mileage budget be reduced by £1,000.

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

RESOLVED – that the draft vehicle hire budget be reduced to zero.

At the conclusion of the debate and on the proposition of Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by Councillor Upton, it was

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the draft budget be approved as amended; and
- b) the Precept for 2014/15 be set at £269,650.

Councillor Upton requested a recorded vote.

Councillors Mrs Roberts, Mrs Geer, Upton, Martin, Miss Hornsby, Thomas, Mrs Boase, Williams and the Mayor voted for the Motion.

Councillor Knight voted against the Motion.

**Meeting closed at 8.25pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**