

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 2018 AT 7.15 PM

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

R Williams
Mrs F N E Boase
M H Thomas

J Martin
D J Potter
T E Grattan-Kane

Rev D P Reed
R F Edgcumbe
M J Kenchington

Officers: Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P J Lavelle (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr M Searle (Town Centre Regeneration Officer)

361. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Councillor Reverend Reed.

362. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillor R J L Boase and Councillor Mrs Roberts.

363. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Martin congratulated the Town Band on its recent success at the West of England Regional Championships. He then advised that he had negotiated a reduction in the parking fee increase for Castle Green Car Park and the untidy land issues on Trengrouse Way and Beacon Parc were on-going. Cornwall Councillor Martin further advised that, following the snow, a large number of new pot-holes had developed and Cormac & Cornwall Highways were under huge pressure to rectify them. As a result, an additional workforce had been appointed to assist with the repairs.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that 'Fairer Funding for Cornwall' had been discussed and Cornwall was receiving up to £500 less per resident than some London boroughs. He further advised that he had toured the town with a Highways officer and informed Members that Station Road would be resurfaced around the 18th April. Cornwall Councillor Thomas then referred to a catalogue of traffic speed sensors suggesting that sponsorship could be sought to purchase some.

364. Public Participation

A member of the public advised that he was sorry to see the Cornwall Farmers outlet closing particularly as a bid to take over the business had been vetoed.

365. Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 15th February 2018 be approved and signed as a true record.

The Mayor abstained from the vote as she had not been present at that meeting.

It was further proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on the 22nd February 2018 be approved and signed as a true record.

The Mayor abstained from the vote as she had not been present at that meeting.

366. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 15th February 2018, be received.

367. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 6th March 2018, be received and the recommendation called-in for consideration at the following Full Council meeting.

368. Announcements

The Mayor informed Members that the General/Grounds Maintenance Operative had been appointed and Mr Ian Moore would be commencing his duties on 9th April 2018. She then made reference to the Town Band's achievement and advised that she would write to congratulate them and thank them for representing Helston so well.

The Mayor referred to the annual seagull problems and suggested promoting the seagull-proof sacks. Councillor Kenchington offered to leaflet drop commercial and residential properties around the town centre. The Mayor then advised that she had received a letter from a pupil of Parc Eglos school regarding recycling and stated that the Council must do more such as provide recycling bins in the streets.

The Mayor reminded Members to be mindful that it was a very busy time for the Town Clerk and his staff with events such as Flora Day, Beating the Bounds, Mayor Choosing and Twinning Anniversary Reception all scheduled for May.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that a Wedding Fair was being organised by the Deputy Town Clerk and asked for volunteers to assist at the event on Sunday 15th April.

369. Report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer

The Town Centre Regeneration Officer updated Members on his report (circulated prior to the meeting). He advised that the Monument Walk shelter was scheduled to be installed on or around 26th March. He further advised that the Town Trail group had been meeting and the project was progressing well. A further update would be provided in April.

370. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 585-633 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £24,153.47.

371. Attendance at Meetings

Referring to the Helston in Bloom report, the Town Clerk enquired why the Group felt no longer able to assist with the on-going maintenance of the two roundabouts that would be planted out in April. Councillor Williams advised that the number of volunteers had fallen.

Councillor Williams then paid tribute to the volunteers that had planted thousands of crocus bulbs in all weather conditions. The plants were flowering and the favourable comments might help to attract more volunteers.

The Mayor enquired whether the tree planting ceremony mentioned in the report was going ahead as the Council had not been contacted. The Town Clerk agreed to contact the Helston in Bloom secretary.

Councillor Thomas advised that the Helston in Bloom Annual General Meeting was taking place on 15th May and encouraged Members to attend.

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

RESOLVED – that the written report submitted by Councillor R J L Boase be received.

372. 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.

373. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

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 item of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

374. Staffing

Members considered a confidential report of the Town Clerk (circulated prior to the meeting). Following the discussion it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Centre Regeneration Officer post be re-named Projects Officer and the hours increased from 7.5 hours per week to 15 hours per week from 1st April 2018 until 31st March 2019.

Meeting closed at 8.09pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor