

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2014 AT 6.30 PM

Councillors: M H Thomas (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
R J L Boase

Mrs F N E Boase
J P Radford-Gaby

M Upton
M Knight

Officers: Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P J Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)

284. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Miss Hornsby, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Geer and Harrison.

285. Absent

Councillor Martin was absent without giving apologies.

286. Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Councillor Upton declared an interest in the grant application from the Epworth Hall (Agenda item 4) as the Chairman of the Epworth Hall Management Committee. He advised that whilst he had a dispensation to speak but not vote he had decided not to take part confirming that he would remain for public participation but would not comment unless asked a direct question.

Councillor Radford-Gaby declared an interest in the grant application for the South Kerrier Alliance CIC (Agenda item 4) as his wife was a Director.

Councillors R J L Boase and Mrs Boase reminded Members that they had a dispensation which allowed them to participate in the debate and vote on matters relating to the South Kerrier Heritage Trust.

287. Public Participation

The Treasurer from the Epworth Hall spoke in support of their application to outline the use of the building and the requirement for disabled access. He advised that they had £12,000 set aside for access to the lower floor but needed access for the upper floor. He advised that they had obtained quotations of £67,615 and had received a voluntary donation of £20,000 dependent on match funding confirming that they were asking for the full £53,000 to cover the shortfall. A further representative of the Epworth Hall gave information on the Committee's intention to submit a larger funding bid and also their work with a number of organisations within the community.

The Chair of Age Concern spoke in support of their application to outline the activities of the organisation advising that they provided a meal every Monday except Bank Holidays. He advised that he was requesting funding to enable them to provide meals for four weeks which totalled £1,080 and was also requesting funding for minibus fuel, the cook and insurance to give the organisation leeway as they had no funds set aside. In response to a question, he confirmed that he was requesting funding to cover the fuel, cook and insurance for a year.

The Chair of the South Kerrier Heritage Trust spoke in support of their application outlining the activities taking place at Helston Museum advising that a grant would enable them to expand what they offered, and by improving tourist information, they would help make Helston a more vibrant town. She advised that the funding would be used for long term projects and they would be adding other funding as and when they could obtain it. In response to a question, the Mayor advised that the previous joint bid would be considered as three separate applications.

The Chair of the Cornubian Arts and Science Trust spoke in support of their application to advise that they hoped to make a significant and long-term investment in the town. She outlined the work carried out to the building and advised that they were asking for help to create a café which could be used as a public meeting place and a social and cultural centre for the town. In respect of the funding requested, she advised that they had submitted a budget of £50,000 but were not expecting that it would be possible for the Council to help with the whole of the grant. She expressed the opinion that if the Town Council were able to give a grant of £25,000 she was confident they could have the café ready for the next visitor season but if less than £15,000 she did not think they would be able to proceed.

The Chair of the Helston Athletic Football Club spoke in respect of their funding application to give further details on their activities and their role in the community. He advised that their grounds were suffering from misuse due to lack of security fencing and confirmed that they wished to install perimeter fencing for the main pitch at a cost of £20,000. He confirmed that the Club had worked hard to raise funding and were willing to put £5,000 towards the project and so were requesting £15,000.

The Chair of Helston Rugby Club outlined their activities advising that the club had outgrown their success and were struggling with limited training facilities which they wanted to improve. He advised they were struggling financially and any support would be appreciated.

A senior coach spoke on behalf of the One & All Judo Club in support of their application outlining the activities of the club and advising that the increases in the funding request were due to increases in the cost of coaching and first aid courses.

Councillors Radford-Gaby and Upton declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting at 6.58pm.

288. Grant Applications

Councillor Williams raised concerns with the distribution of the unrestricted funds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road to local organisations and expressed the opinion that the funds should be used for a Community Centre as originally intended by the Council at the time of the sale. The Mayor reminded Councillor Williams that the Full Council had more recently agreed to distribute the unrestricted funds in the form of grants and it was not within his gift to reverse this decision.

Councillor Williams advised that he felt unable to take part further and left the meeting at 7.09pm.

Councillor Knight expressed the opinion that the distribution of the unrestricted funds was an important decision and advised that she wished there was enough funding to give all the organisations the money they wanted. She advised that she admired all the organisations present and thought they did a marvellous job but the money was a one-off opportunity and it was the Council's duty to maximise the benefit and make a difference with a view to the long-term benefits to the town as a whole. Councillor Knight expressed the view that to see the funds diluted down into small grants would be the worst case scenario. She advised that whilst the funds were not restricted Members should consider what John Passmore Edward's beliefs were when setting up the Institutions in the first place and informed Members that the majority of the buildings were in the general sense arts based. She expressed the opinion that there was one application before Members which could give an opportunity to set in motion projects which, with matching funding, could project Helston's heritage and culture forward in leaps and bounds and could also fit together with the Public Realm projects. She then proposed that the £53,000 be divided equally between the South Kerrier Heritage Trust, the Cornubian Arts and Science Trust and the Epworth Hall.

Councillor R J L Boase apologised to the public present and expressed the opinion that there were insufficient Councillors present to make a fair decision on the distribution of the proceeds.

Councillor R J L Boase advised that he would not take any further part in the meeting and left at 7.13pm.

At this point the meeting became inquorate.

Meeting closed at 7.13pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor