

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

Councillors: J Martin (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
R J L Boase
Mrs F N E Boase
M H Thomas

Mrs G A Geer
Mrs N Roberts
D J Potter

T E Grattan-Kane
M J Kenchington
R F Edgcumbe

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

210. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Mayor.

211. Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Reverend Reed.

212. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that he had attended two Licensing Committee meetings and several Member briefings including one by the Planning Team which had caused him to consider whether Helston needed a Neighbourhood Development Plan. He advised that he had been pleased to see the Leader of Cornwall Council in Helston at the Localism Summit which included a consultation with parish and town councillors on the Cornwall Council budget followed by a consultation with the public in the town centre. Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that he was encouraged to hear that Helston Library was being used as a good example of how a building could be adapted. He confirmed that he had attended the West Sub Area Planning Committee meeting, which had considered several contentious planning applications, and the Community Network Meeting where concerns had been raised with the Police representative regarding the lack of presence in the community. Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that he intended to pursue a proper maintenance regime for the kennels and he would be talking to a representative from Historic England on the matter.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he had been involved in casework regarding community issues and planning enforcement cases. He further advised that he had been invited by the contractor to view the progress of the Government-funded Helston Community College north site redevelopment, confirming that progress was good and the completion and hand-over was expected to take place in late summer 2019. Cornwall Councillor Thomas then advised that he was continuing to pursue open space initiatives in partnership with Helston Town Council. Councillor Thomas also advised that on 11th November he had attended the Remembrance Parade and open air service in the morning and the service in St Michaels Church in the afternoon and had laid wreaths on behalf of Cornwall Council at both events. Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he had attended a range of Cornwall Council Committee meetings including a West Sub-Area Planning Committee meeting and

had been involved in the recycling centres enquiry with the results being made public at the next Community Network meeting. He further advised that he had organised a meeting regarding the leat and kennel system between the Cornwall Council Divisional Members, researchers and Officers which would take place on 10th December and hoped to develop a way forward. Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he had attended planning training, Standards meetings and had also observed a working group studying the methodology behind the performance management of Cornwall Council. He confirmed that, together with Cornwall Councillor Martin, he had welcomed the Leader of Cornwall Council to Helston for the Localism Summit and had assisted the Communications Team with their engagement with members of the public about the Cornwall Council budget for 2019/20.

213. Public Participation

A member of the public raised concern regarding the proposed increase to the Town Council's Budget for 2019/20 and queried several budget headings which he thought could be reduced. The member of the public expressed concern that the increase was too much for the ratepayers of Helston and requested Members to reconsider.

214. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th October 2018 be approved and signed as a true record.

Councillor Edgcumbe abstained from the vote as he had not been present at the meeting.

215. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 18th October 2018 and 1st November 2018, be received.

216. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meetings held on 23rd October 2018 and 6th November 2018, be received.

217. Announcements

The Mayor informed Members that he had attended several events including Helston Theatre Company's performance of My Fair Lady, the launch of the Heritage Trail Leaflet, the St Just Feast Service and the opening of the last of the WWI Heritage Group's exhibitions at the museum thanking all those involved for the various events. The Mayor further advised that he had attended several Remembrance events over the previous weekend including a candle vigil at the Cottage Hospital, the concert, a 6am Bagpipe rendition, the Sunday morning parade and outdoor service, the service at St Michaels Church in the afternoon and the Battle's Over beacon lighting event in the evening. The Mayor thanked all those involved in the organisation of the Remembrance events including the Royal British Legion, The

Poppy Appeal team, Helston Town Band, RNAS Culdrose, the Military Wives Choir, ACT1, The Rotarians and the Lions.

Councillor Mrs Geer suggested that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Royal British Legion for a very moving service in the morning which had been very well attended. The Mayor advised that he would send a letter of thanks.

218. Members' Questions Pursuant to Standing Order 8.1

The Town Clerk advised that a question had been received from Councillor R J L Boase to the Town Council representatives on the Helston CIC:

‘Could you please inform the council whether the CIC has been formed? If so how its makeup was formed, and the names on the Board. Also, why were the Town Councillors not informed of the public meeting last week.’

Councillor Potter advised that the paperwork to form Helston CIC was currently with Companies House and the group was comprised of volunteers who had stepped forward to work for the improvement of Helston. He advised that the names submitted to Companies House as Directors were David Turnbull, Jenny Morris, Malcolm Oliver, Lee Spicer, Miles Kenchington and Dave Potter with Brendan Thomas being added to the list. Councillor Potter confirmed that the CIC was always looking for people to contribute to the improvement of Helston. Councillor Potter advised that the CIC hosted two community engagement events on Thursday 8th November and outlined the aims and the response received. Councillor Potter advised that the event was not reported at the last Full Council meeting as a date had not been finalised but once the date was set it was advertised in local shops, on social media, in local newspapers articles and also mentioned on local radio.

219. Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor Kenchington advised that he had requested the item at the previous Full Council meeting after a member of the public raised concerns with anti-social behaviour to give the Council an opportunity to discuss the issues and consider what it could do to assist rectifying the problems. A detailed debate ensued during which Members expressed concern with the recent increase in anti-social behaviour and debated potential methods to combat the problem. At the conclusion of the debate it was proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council:

- a) write to the Superintendent of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary to invite him to meet with Members who wished make a case for a greater police presence in the town;
- b) write to Safer Cornwall to arrange a meeting with a representative; and
- c) make an appointment with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Councillor R J L Boase agreed to make a Freedom of Information request for anti-social behaviour statistics for Helston.

220. Report of the Projects Officer

The Projects Officer updated Members on his report (circulated prior to the meeting) to advise that the notices had been removed from the Trenance Close Amenity Land and he was liaising with Councillor Thomas regarding the consultation with local residents to enable long term plans to be developed.

In response to questions the Projects Officer advised that he would investigate the feasibility of an 'Alexa' app for the Heritage Trail and confirmed that the Project Group was considering geofencing instead of QR codes for phase 2 of the Heritage Trail as this would give users with the app access to the feature they were closest to.

The Mayor thanked the Projects Officer for his hard work.

221. 2019/20 Budget

The Council considered a report by the Town Clerk (circulated prior to the meeting) together with the final draft budget for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2020. The Town Clerk confirmed that every year Full Council had to agree the budget and the Precept request for the following financial year. He further advised that the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee had scrutinised the budget in great detail, made some amendments and was recommending the budget to Full Council and therefore ratifying the recommendations of the Amenities Committee to employ two further Grounds/General Maintenance Operatives and lease a vehicle and mower. He further advised that the Referendum Principles would not apply to Town and Parish Councils in 2019/20.

A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the draft budget be approved as set out;
- b) the Precept for 2019/20 be set at £468,170;
- c) the 2019/20 Schedule of Fees and Charges be approved as set out;
- d) the Council employ two additional Grounds/General Maintenance Operatives with effect from 1st April 2019 on Spinal Point 5;
- e) the current Grounds/General Maintenance Operative be appointed Supervisor on Spinal Point 8 from 1st April 2019;
- f) a Peugeot Boxer vehicle be leased from Cormac Solutions Ltd for 6 years; and
- g) a ride-on mower be leased from Cormac Solutions Ltd for 6 years,

Councillor Edgcumbe requested that his vote against the Motion be recorded.

Councillor R J L Boase requested that his vote in favour of the Motion be recorded.

It had been proposed by Councillor Edgcumbe, seconded by Councillor Williams, that the budget be returned to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee for re-consideration. This Motion failed.

222. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Cornwall Council – Christmas Free Parking Day

Councillor Mrs Geer advised that she had spoken with several businesses and the majority had suggested Saturday 15th December as their preferred day for free parking in Helston. On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council selected Saturday 15th December as its preferred day for free parking in Cornwall Council’s pay and display car parks.

(2) Off-Street Parking Place Order

The Mayor and Councillor Thomas advised that they would be attending the meeting in Truro on Friday 23rd November. This item was noted.

223. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 443-501 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £39,774.14.

224. Items for the next Agenda

The Mayor requested that Members contact the Town Clerk’s office ten days prior to the next meeting to place items on the following Full Council Agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.44pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor