

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 20TH DECEMBER 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
Rev. D P Reed
M J Kenchington

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

248. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Councillor Reverend Reed.

249. Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Edgcumbe.

250. Police Matters

The Town Clerk advised that whilst he was aware that a report from the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary was being drafted but he had not yet received a copy.

251. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that he had been involved in Licensing meetings during which Cumulative Impact Zones which applied to larger towns had been discussed. He advised that whilst Helston did not fit into the category he had expressed the opinion that due to an increase in alcohol related anti-social behaviour issues he believed that Helston should be investigated to see if any support was available and the Cornwall Council Public Protection Officer was going to collate the relevant information. Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that he had also attended the West Sub Area Planning Committee meeting where several contentious planning applications had been decided, many of them against the Planning Officers' recommendations.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he had called a meeting with various Officers and Cornwall Council local Division Members to discuss the Kennels and Leats which had been very productive and then outlined the topics discussed and future meetings planned. Councillor Thomas further advised that, together with the Town Clerk, he had met with Officers at Cornwall Council to discuss connectivity issues for Helston including pedestrian access along the Helston Relief Road, improvements to the B3297 and the potential railway connection. Cornwall Councillor Thomas further advised that he had been involved in a number of casework issues which were mostly planning related and had also attended meetings of various groups including the West Sub Area Planning Committee, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Group, the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and the Children and Families Scrutiny Group. He further advised that he was also part of the Community Governance Reviews and had attended an informal Electoral Review Briefing with amendments to town and parish boundaries now due to be discussed. He advised that there were many things to consider such as whether the HX1 development should be incorporated into Helston or whether the number of Councillors should be increased or decreased and suggested that an item be included on a future Full Council Agenda. The Town Clerk advised that an e-mail had been received from CALC and a further e-mail was expected from Cornwall Council on the topic which would be circulated to Members and an Agenda item would be included on the January Full Council agenda.

252. Public Participation

A member of the public advised that water would always need to be extracted from the River Cober to satisfy demand for drinking water. He further expressed concern that the Leader of Cornwall Council was travelling to Brussels to meet the Brexit negotiator at public expense.

253. 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 the 15th November 2018 be approved and signed as a true record.

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

254. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 15th November and 6th December 2018, be received.

255. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Mrs Geer, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 22nd November 2018, be received.

256. Announcements

The Mayor thanked Members and Staff for all their efforts and hard-work over 2018 and wished everyone present a happy Christmas.

257. Dog Fouling

Councillor Thomas advised that he had requested an item on the Agenda to discuss this issue as he had been contacted by a member of the public who was experiencing problems with dog fouling which he was unable to see as he was visually impaired. Councillor Thomas expressed the opinion that the majority of dog owners were responsible and cleaned up after their dog but the problem was being caused by a small minority. He confirmed that dog fouling seemed to be a particular problem in Godolphin Road and advised that he wished to draw public attention to the issue and suggested that members of the public witnessing an occurrence could speak to the offenders if they felt it was safe to do so. A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which the Town Clerk advised that the forthcoming increase in the Grounds Maintenance team would give a greater presence around the town which may be a deterrent and would allow the Town Warden to spend greater time investigating complaints and potentially issuing Fixed Penalty Notices. The Town Clerk then briefly outlined the procedure required for issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice advising that the offence needed to be witnessed and requested that members of the public assist in pinpointing the times and places that the incidents occurred.

258. Report of the Projects Officer

The Projects Officer updated Members on his report (circulated prior to the meeting) to advise that a decorative arch had been suggested as a solution to the climbing issues at the top of the Castle Hill Steps but he had some concerns with the feasibility and was investigating further. The Projects Officer also advised that he had been working with Councillor Thomas and the Town Clerk regarding the Trenance Close open space and was in discussions with Cornwall Council's Legal Department at present but would report fully at a future meeting.

Councillor Mrs Geer suggested that cultivated blackberries were a useful plant to prevent unwanted access to certain areas. Councillor Thomas expressed the opinion that the Monument Walk Shelter could be cleaned more often. The Town Clerk advised that the area was visited regularly but it was not always possible to clean the shelter when it was in use. Councillor Kenchington advised that when discussions took place regarding the Council's concerns with anti-social behaviour in the town it was important that the Monument Walk area was not overlooked.

The Town Clerk advised that he had met with the Council's Solicitor several times and the Solicitor was producing a report regarding the transfer of the Monument Walk area for Council's consideration.

259. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Electoral Review of Cornwall

This item was noted.

(2) Twinning Agreements

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

RESOLVED – that the two Twinning Agreements between Helston and Sasso Marconi, presented to the Mayor during the visit to celebrate the 50th Anniversary, be framed at a cost of £39 each.

(3) Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Police and Crime Commissioner was planning to hold a 'Meet your PCC' event in Helston early in the new year which would be open to all to attend. The Town Clerk further advised that he had received a response to his letter to the Chief Superintendent to advise that it had been passed onto Superintendent Sarah Crane to response fully. This item was noted.

(4) Trevassack Lake Water Sport for All Project

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council send a letter of support for the Trevassack Lake project but did not pledge additional funding at present as it had already supported this organisation in the current financial year.

(5) Planning Committee

Councillor Williams suggested that the Planning Committee be disbanded and Full Council consider all planning applications. A detailed debate ensued during which Members outlined the benefits of the current Planning Committee. The Town Clerk advised that whilst the Committee had a minimum membership there was not a maximum membership so all Councillors could join the committee if they wished.

It was agreed to defer the item to the January Full Council meeting and the Mayor requested that any Members who wished to join the Planning Committee notify the Town Clerk at their earliest opportunity.

(6) Councillor Training

The Town Clerk advised that the 'Being a Good Employer' training would particularly benefit members of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee as it was this Committee that was responsible for staffing. The Town Clerk then requested that any Members who wished to attend the training let him know at the earliest opportunity and he would book them in.

260. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 502-571 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £67,298.48.

261. 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.

262. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Potter, 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 items of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

263. Confidential Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Helston Scout Group – New Lease

This item was noted.

(2) Guildhall Public Conveniences

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor R J L Boase, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Mayor, Chair & Vice-chair of Amenities and the Town Clerk be appointed to the Guildhall Public Conveniences Working Party, with Councillor Grattan-Kane as Reserve, to assist with the design.

It was further proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by the Mayor, and

RESOLVED – that the refurbishment of the Guildhall Public Conveniences be designed to meet the requirements outlined as Option 1 of the Architect's report.

Meeting closed at 8.48pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor