

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING OF HELSTON
HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL,
COINAGEHALL STREET, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 8TH APRIL 2010 AT 7.00 PM

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Helston Town Councillors: N J C Devenish (Town Mayor) in the Chair

Mrs S M E Swift
R J L Boase
K Reynolds
Mrs V J Matthew

Mrs F N E Boase
R R Pryor
M H Thomas
J P Radford-Gaby

Cornwall Councillors:

Mrs J Haycock

A Robertson

Residents:

Mr P Phillips
Mr A R Skewes
Mrs M B Skewes

Mr M Upton
Mr W Bowden
Mr M Jay

Representatives of Organisations:

Mr K Whittle – Carleen Church Community
Care Centre
Ms P Martin – Cornwall Air Ambulance
Trust
P Fawcett – Cornwall Blind Association
J Butters – Cornwall Blind Association
Ms C Tristram – Cornwall Rape & Sexual
Abuse Centre
Ms C Harper – Cornwall Rape & Sexual
Abuse Centre
Mrs K Harvey – Phoenix Project
Mr I Perry – Helston Age Concern
Flt. Lt. Bowcutt – Helston Air Cadets

Ms G Barnes – Helston Chamber Choir
Mrs J Rustean – Helston Chamber Choir
L Sturgess – Helston Cricket Club
Ms J Rapson – Helston School Jazz
Orchestra
Ms V Hosken – Helston Scout Group
L Thomas – Marie Curie Cancer Care
Mr R Nott – St. Michaels Church
I Billing – Tanya's Courage Trust
N Empel Newman – Tanya's Courage Trust
Mr M Sanders – Truro Hospital Radio

In Attendance:

Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P J Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)
Mrs S Price (Administrative Assistant)

1. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on 9th April 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2. Town Mayor's Report

The Mayor presented a resume of the affairs of the town during the preceding twelve months and made special reference to:

- (a) the building works for the new Sainsbury's store and the forthcoming development at Tesco which would create jobs for the area;
- (b) Section 106 funding provided by the two Supermarket developments that would be used for public realm works to rejuvenate parts of the town centre;
- (c) a Town Centre Manager whose post would also be funded by the Section 106 money who would be a regeneration officer working solely for the benefit of Helston;
- (d) the criticism of the budget for public realm works which was set by the former Kerrier District Council with the spending under the control of Cornwall Council and confirmed that Councillors from all levels of Local Government were committed to ensuring that the Section 106 money was spent on Helston with the benefit maximised for future generations;
- (e) the drafting of the Town Plan which was continuing with small councillor focus groups investigating the different issues in greater detail and advised that further public consultation would be carried out in the near future;
- (f) the success of the first Continental Market organised by Helston Town Council in September and the forthcoming market on 24th April;
- (g) the town's kennels running again with thanks given to those involved in the resolution of the problem;
- (h) the Town Council's Active Partnering Bid to run Coronation Park;
- (i) the Town Council's adoption of the Power of Well Being; and
- (j) the joint venture between the Town Council and the Phoenix Project which involved the clearing and improvement of the Monument Garden.

3. Charity Accounts: Trevenen Exhibition

The Town Clerk reported details of the Accounts of the Trevenen Exhibition Charity which showed balances on the 31st March 2010 of £4,127.70 representing £3,077.29 in shares currently held and £1,050.41 in the Charity's Abbey National bank account.

Mr Peter O'Brian was still the Trevenen Exhibition Award recipient and a letter had been received from his Tutor that gave a favourable report of Mr O'Brian's ongoing progress with his studies.

4. Report on the Downsland Trust

Councillor Reynolds, Chairman of the Downsland Trust, gave a detailed report on the activities of the Trust and made particular mention to the works at Meneage Green advising that planning permission had been obtained and tenders would be sought in the near future. Councillor Reynolds further advised that the Downsland Trust had sold the planted area at the end of Meneage Green which had solved the problem of the ongoing maintenance liability.

A member of the public queried what works were to be carried out to Meneage Green. Councillor Reynolds advised that it was intended to create a parking area with the remaining grass being fenced off to protect it. In response to a question Councillor Reynolds further advised that the planted area at the end of Meneage Green had been sold to the owner of the property behind who was responsible for the maintenance of the area and a restriction had been included on the site to prevent it being developed or used for parking.

5. Town Affairs

Mr I Perry expressed concern with the influx of out of town stores and the number of shops closing in the town centre. The Mayor advised that part of the Section 106 funding was ear-marked to fund a Town Centre Manager and part of the role of this position would be to encourage new businesses into the town, assist existing businesses and increase footfall in the town. The Mayor further advised that with the existing economic climate trading conditions were difficult and he hoped that the proposed public realm works and the employment of a Town Centre Manager would assist.

Mr Perry expressed the opinion that care required greater funding and asked what the Town Council intended to do. The Mayor advised that provision of care was not the responsibility of the Town Council but confirmed that the issues faced by older people were being considered as part of the Town Plan that was being formulated.

Mrs M Skewes advised that she had not been aware that it was in the Town Council's remit to care for people. The Mayor reiterated that care was not part of the Town Council's remit but as a part of producing the Town Plan, Members were taking all residents' needs into account and would be contacting other organisations about the issues raised.

Mrs G Barnes requested an update on the provision of a bus shelter in Coinagehall Street. The Mayor advised that the saga continued and there had been several issues regarding the Conservation Area. The Town Clerk advised that Cornwall Council had decided not to provide a bus shelter and the Town Council was challenging the decision.

Mr M Jay advised that he had taken part in the initial consultation for the Town Plan and had not heard anything since, and requested an update. The Mayor advised that a lot of work had been carried out behind the scenes since the initial consultations with results being collated and the issues raised being investigated. He further advised that focus groups had been formed for each topic to develop a way forward and the Town Council would hold a thorough consultation on all areas.

Mr Perry requested that the Town Council produce a newsletter. The Mayor advised that the Town Council currently produced a quarterly newsletter available from the Guildhall and other public buildings as well as the Council's website.

Mr M Jay advised that part of the town's welfare and acumen was based on its financial health and asked what the Town Council was doing to stimulate economic activity in Helston. The Mayor advised that the Town Council had a limited statutory ability to affect the economy but confirmed that as part of the Town Plan a list of issues had been created such as micro business units and improvements to transport links that it hoped to take forward. The Mayor further advised that the Town Centre Manager would be responsible for increasing the footfall in the Town Centre and making the Town Centre a better place to visit.

Mr M Jay advised that he had received a circular confirming that the Town Council was terminating the lease for the Community Centre and expressed the opinion that the Council should take a more proactive role and assist the Community Centre. The Mayor advised that there were long-term issues with the Community Centre and notice had been served with proceedings due to go to court, but he was unable to make further comment as the subject was sub judice.

Mr P Phillips suggested the inclusion of a report from the South Kerrier Alliance at the Town Meeting similar to the Downsland Trust. The Mayor advised that the Downsland Trust gave a report as the trustees were Town Councillors and suggested that the South Kerrier Alliance could hold an AGM if it wished to hold a public meeting.

Mrs M Skewes queried the terms and funding for the Town Centre Manager. The Mayor advised that the Town Centre Manager would be funded by Section 106 money from the two supermarket developments and the position would have a preliminary contract of 5 years.

Mr W Bowden raised concerns regarding the effect of out of town shopping on the viability of the town centre and expressed the opinion that the budgets for the Section 106 expenditure were unrealistic.

Mr M Jay expressed concern that Section 106 funding was given as part of planning permission and suggested that the town did not need so many supermarkets. Mr Jay then expressed the opinion that people wanted to be involved locally and should have the opportunity to say what they thought about local issues. The Mayor advised that Town Council meetings were open to the public and there was an opportunity for public participation.

Mr W Bowden asked if the Town Council would consider having an internet forum for people to raise ideas. The Mayor confirmed that the website was on the Agenda to be discussed at the next Full Council meeting.

Mr M Upton requested an update on the proposed dry bar. The Mayor advised that the Cornwall Council Community Network Manager had taken on the project and, following a meeting with the young people, an appropriate venue was being sought.

Mr Upton then enquired why the directory of youth groups was not included on the website. The Mayor advised that all the organisations that had requested to have their details on the Town Council website were included.

6. Presentations from Organisations

Presentations were made by the following organisations that had received financial support from the Town Council over the past year:

- Carleen Church Community Care
- Cornwall Air Ambulance
- Cornwall Blind Association
- Cornwall Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre
- Helston 1st Scout Group
- Helston AFC Youth
- Helston Age Concern
- Helston Air Training Corps 3
- Helston Chamber Choir
- Helston Cricket Club
- Helston School Jazz Orchestra
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- St. Michaels Church Clock
- Tanya's Courage Trust
- The Phoenix Project
- Truro Hospital Radio

The Town Clerk read reports submitted by the following organisations who were unable to attend the meeting:

- Cornwall Rural Community Council
- Helston & District Town Twinning Association
- Homestart Kernow

The Meeting closed at 9.31pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor