

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING OF HELSTON
HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL,
COINAGEHALL STREET, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 9TH APRIL 2015 AT 7.00 P.M.

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PRESENT: Councillor M H Thomas (Town Mayor) in the Chair

Helston Town Councillors:

R Williams
Mrs F N E Boase

J Martin
M Knight

M Upton
Mrs G A Geer

Residents:

Mr I D Perry

Mr C Knight

Representatives of Organisations:

Mrs S Swift – Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust
Mr D Swift – Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust
Miss E Wooderson – Epworth Hall
Mr T Channon – Helston Bowling Club
Mr J Sell – Helston Chamber Choir
Mr K Whittle – League of Friends Helston Hospital
Mr R Nott – St. Michaels Church Bell Ringers Group

In Attendance:

Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P J Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)
Mrs S Price (Administrative Assistant)
Mr M Searle (Town Centre Regeneration Officer)

WPC Butcher (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary)

Mr P Johnstone (Helston Packet)
Mr G Wilkinson (West Briton)
Mr K Richards (West Briton)

1. MINUTES

Mr Nott advised that the representative of the St. Michaels Church Bell Ringers Group should be Mr R Nott not Mrs R Nott.

It was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on 10th April 2014 be approved subject to the above amendment 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 continued growth of the town with new residents and several businesses arriving and leaving, the most notable of which being the loss of Oliver & Son (Helston) Ltd;
- (b) The loss of people who made Helston the place that it was, such as Wesley Bowden and Allan Healey, memories of whom would linger for many years to come;
- (c) Proposals for urban extensions to the town and whilst all wished to see the town prosper and grow, the growth needed to be carefully structured and well within the capabilities of the town to manage;
- (d) The challenges facing businesses and the activities of the Helston Business Improvement Partnership (HBIP) which had served the town well during the year, thanking Mrs Radford-Gaby for all she had contributed to the town. He advised that Mr Perry and Mrs Moralee had been working hard preparing the town for BID decision making and advised that it had been heartening to see so many people attending an information event confirming that he fully supported the BID process;
- (e) The relationship with RNAS Culdrose continued to prosper and whilst the number on the base were lower compared to previous years the presence of the Seahawk crew within the town was welcomed;
- (f) The gifting of two aerial photographs of the town by the previous Captain, Mark Garrett, which were on display in the Guildhall and the Mayor's Parlour with members thanks being received by the new Captain, Adrian Orchard, when he was welcomed at the Guildhall;
- (g) His dismay at the proposal that Freedom Parade become a biennial event due to manpower issues advising that he would do everything in his power to urge a rethink;
- (h) The announcement made in February by Nick Clegg MP at Helston Community College confirming that an award of £19 million was being made for the rebuild;
- (i) The numerous groups and individuals which had well represented the town during the year making particular mention to Helston AFC who were on the verge of promotion to the Premier division of the South West Peninsula League and Helston Town Band who were placed fifth in the Torquay South West competition in March;
- (j) The work of the Twinning groups who continued to thrive, advising that he had also renewed contact with the Mayor of Port Augusta in South Australia;
- (k) The Town Council's work with Cornwall Council, especially the three Division Members, which had always been very positive and their attendance at Full Council meetings to respond to questions had always been appreciated;

- (l) The continuation of the transfer of assets from Cornwall Council with the addition of the Trengrouse Way Public Conveniences although these facilities had not been utilised due to problems with the nearby retaining wall which were being rectified in the near future;
- (m) The commemoration of the outbreak of World War One with an exhibition at the Museum, a flower festival, a Civic Service, the creation of a memorial garden and the formation of a WWI Heritage Group who aimed to carry out further activities over the time period culminating with events to mark the centenary of the end of the war. The Mayor expressed his thanks to all the volunteers who were involved in the projects;
- (n) The Council's resolution of a range of intermediate issues making particular mention to the tarmacing of the lane adjacent to Peacock's in Coinagehall Street;
- (o) The Council's reduction in the number of Committee's and the frequency of meetings;
- (p) The creation of a new Town Council website which should go live within a few months and the introduction of new e-mail addresses for Town Councillors which contained .gov as part of the address to show that Members were a part of Cornwall's local government structure;
- (q) The Mayor's Ball, which had been a great success, thanking the Mayoress for her table decorating and organisational skills. He advised that the profit for the Mayor's Fund, which was aided by a donation from the Flambards Masked Ball and the proceeds from the Mayoress' crossword competitions, had enabled him to make a donation of £1000 to the League of Friends of the Helston Community Hospital with another donation to be made. The Mayor further advised that he had supported the Helston Food Bank and Mustard Seed projects with the aid of local businesses and had raised money for young people in the town with awards being given for sport, charitable work overseas and support for Helston Community College music department by purchasing a musical instrument for a talented student who was unable to afford one;
- (r) The replacement of CCTV cameras with up-to-date devices which would be monitored at Tolvaddon;
- (s) The gifting of the portrait of Guy Gibson to Porthleven Town Council; and
- (t) The live streaming of Helston Flora Day with ten cameras beaming the event around the world.

The Mayor then presented a cheque for £1,200.00 to Dr K Whittle representing the League of Friends of Helston Community Hospital.

3. MAYOR'S YOUNG CITIZEN AWARD

The Mayor advised that the three primary schools in Helston, Helston Community College and Mullion School had been contacted for nominations of students who were Helston residents for the Mayor's Young Citizen Award. The Mayor confirmed that four nominations had been received. The Mayoress announced that Miss Leana Williams had been selected for the Young Citizen Award which would be presented at the Mayor's Civic Service and read details of the nomination.

4. MAYOR'S CITIZEN AWARD

The Mayor advised that nominations had been sought for the Mayor's Citizen Award and thanked the Mayoress, Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Consort for their assistance on the Selection Panel. The Mayor then advised that Mr Derek Wear had been selected for the Citizen Award which would be presented at the Mayor's Civic Service and gave details of his nomination.

5. CHARITY ACCOUNTS: TREVENEN EXHIBITION

The Town Clerk reported details of the Accounts of the Trevenen Exhibition Charity which showed balances on the 31st March 2015 of £5,230.52 representing £3,841.52 in shares currently held and £1,389.00 in the Charity's bank account.

The Town Clerk advised that the current recipient, Mr A Jose, had been awarded £140 for his final year and confirmed that the Trustees would meet later in the year to make a further appointment.

6. REPORT ON THE DOWNSLAND TRUST

Councillor Mrs Geer, Chairman of the Helston Downsland Trust, gave a brief report on the activities of the Trust advising that the charity had been founded to aid the poor of the community. She advised that the Downsland Trust was currently dormant as there had been an administrative error causing an overspend the previous year but they expected to be able to offer grants again shortly.

7. REPORT ON THE HELSTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP

The Town Clerk read a written report on behalf of Mr A Perry, Chairman of the Helston Business Improvement Partnership (HBIP), giving an update on the activities of the organisation outlining the work carried out by the Project Groups and the HBIP's investigation into a Business Improvement District.

8. TOWN AFFAIRS

A member of the public requested an update on the road works at the top of Sithney Common Hill which they understood were expected to take several months. WPC Butcher advised that PCSO Whitford had raised the issue and she understood the work was due to start at the end of April and was expected to continue for four months. She advised that the issue had been raised with the Flora Day Committee who were looking at alternative traffic management for Flora Day and it was appreciated that the Porthleven Road could not be used as an alternative that day due to the road closures. Councillor Martin advised that the problem with the road ran along the edge of

the adjacent field for a length of approximately 150m. A member of the public advised that the traffic lights were regularly breaking down which caused severe problems suggesting that more efficient equipment was required and possibly human management of the traffic on Flora Day. WPC Butcher advised that she would report the concerns to Cornwall Council Highways Department as it was a highways issue and for them to decide how best to manage it.

A member of the public advised that the pavements were looking clean following the Flora Day tidy and thanked the volunteers involved. He then expressed concern with vehicles parking in Coinagehall Street causing an obstruction to the traffic lights and thanked the Town Council for the installation of the bus shelters in Coinagehall Street.

9. PRESENTATIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS

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

- Cornwall Air Ambulance
- Epworth Hall Management Group
- St Michaels Parish Church Bell Ringers Group
- Helston Bowling Club
- Helston Chamber Choir

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor