

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2019 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

R F Edgcumbe
M J Kenchington

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

234. Prayers

The Meeting opened with a minutes silence in memory of Mr Fred Angove who had served as Macebearer for 30 years.

235. Apologies

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

236. Police Matters

The Mayor extended a welcome to Inspector Martin Roberts who introduced himself and outlined his direction with the sector advising that he felt that two way communication was very important. He then encouraged members of the public to report issues, advising that the intelligence enabled them to direct their resources to the appropriate areas. Inspector Roberts then confirmed that anti-social behaviour continued to be an issue and they were also focusing on speeding vehicles. In response to a question, Inspector Roberts confirmed that crimes could be reported via 101 although this was sometimes problematic and they could also be reported via live chat, email or by using the blue phone at the Police Station.

237. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that he had been out of action for most of the time since the last meeting due to his operation but had been able to attend the West Sub-Area Planning Committee meeting. He confirmed that he had also been involved in casework regarding conflicts with boundaries, anti-social behaviour and speeding vehicles.

Councillor Thomas gave a detailed report on his activities making particular mention to:

- A meeting with the Portfolio Holder for Customers and a representative from GLL/Better who ran Helston Sports Centre to tour the site and discuss current facilities and recent issues. He advised that a follow up meeting had been scheduled;
- The B3297 scoping exercise which was complete and local Division Members were due to meet with a Strategic Director at Cornwall Council to discuss the situation;
- A senior Highways Officer had agreed to the inclusion of Station Road on the gritting route but would not include the bus route through Pendeen Park and Osborne Park;
- He had been approached by a member of the public regarding the planting of trees in Tenderah Road briefly outlining Cormac's tree planting service and advised that the matter was ongoing;

- A Special Full Council meeting was held on 10th December 2019 to discuss the Community Governance Review during which Cornwall Councillors had ratified the recommendation for the changes to the Helston and Wendron Parishes. He advised that further consultation would take place before final ratification during the summer;
- The Cornwall Council budget discussions were ongoing with an expected increase of no less than 3.9% with public consultations being held prior to confirmation of the final figure;
- The Cornwall Council Full Council meeting in November had decided by a majority to support the upgrading of Newquay Airport for horizontal space launch and he had supported the proposal after much reading and personal research;
- The Strategic Director for Economic Growth and Development would be meeting with him and Cornwall Councillor Martin in Helston the following month and at a separate event the Service Director for Planning & Sustainable Development would be holding a Scoping workshop for the Cornwall 5050 plan; and
- He had continued to lobby for the economic development of the town whenever he was able and did all he could to promote the reconnection to Network Rail.

The Mayor confirmed that there was no report from Cornwall Councillor Wallis.

238. Public Participation

A member of the public enquired how the Police would publicise the contact details so the public knew how to report issues. Inspector Roberts advised that, in addition to attending meetings and the coverage in the Press, he hoped to include the information in parish newsletters.

A representative of the Helston Climate Action Group referred to item 1 of the Town Clerk's report (Agenda item 18) to thank the Town Council for taking their request to make Helston an Earth Protector Town forward and to thank the Town Clerk for all his work. She then referred to Cornwall Councillor Thomas' report to express her disappointment at Cornwall Council's decision regarding the Space Port and she was disappointed that Cornwall Councillor Thomas had not contacted the local climate group to gain their opinion before the vote.

Councillor Williams expressed the opinion that it was a pleasure to see so many members of the public attending the meeting and thanked the Inspector for showing an interest.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Roberts for attending the meeting.

239. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 21st November 2019 be approved and signed as a true record.

240. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 21st November and 5th December 2019, be received.

241. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 28th November 2019, be received.

242. Announcements

The Mayor thanked Members and Officers for all their contributions over the year and wished them a Happy Christmas.

243. Report of the Helston Climate Action Group

Councillor Potter advised that the Helston Climate Action Group had the following Flagship Projects underway within the first three months of the Helston Climate Action Plan launch:

- The Forest for Helston was now underway with the first trees purchased by the Town Council planted at Helston Community College. A further 420 trees from the Woodland Trust would arrive in the Spring with plans also progressing for work at Cades Parc;
- Incredible Edible Helston had had a stall at the farmers market to let people know about the projects and to gather support for Incredible Edible. Helston Climate Action Group would be holding an initial meeting on Thursday 16th January to bring everyone together who would like to be involved in the project and encouragement was given for a councillor to participate;
- A training session with Community Energy Plus for the pop-up energy advice surgeries had been held on Tuesday 17th December; and
- The Helston Repair Cafe has had two very successful sessions and would run on the third Sunday of every month from January onwards.

Councillor Potter then updated Members on additional activities carried out by the Helston Climate Action Group:

- The Climate Hub was a regular drop in session on Monday evenings at the Guildhall with a formal meeting on the first Monday of each month;
- The Helston Climate Action Group had attended a meeting at Richard Lander school which had brought together various people working on the climate emergency and schools as well as mental health and wellbeing in Cornwall;
- Helston Climate Action Group was represented at meetings with the Cornwall Council Climate Change team to discuss co-design. The group had also been represented at the launch of the Forest for Cornwall and a meeting about a National Lottery Climate Action Fund bid to support community action on climate change; and
- An application to the Rural Community Energy Fund was being prepared for a feasibility study which could lead to further grant funding for a community energy project.

Councillor Potter advised that the Helston Climate Action Group needed community support to achieve its goals and encouraged everyone to get involved.

244. Guildhall Renewable Energy Proposals

Councillor Potter advised that the Town Council had applied to put solar panels on the Guildhall roof in 2011 when the application had been withdrawn due to the objections of the Conservation Officer but he believed that the Town Council should revisit the application. Councillor Potter expressed the opinion that, whilst having solar panels would be beneficial to the building and the town, it would also make a statement on what could be done on a Listed Building. A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk write to Derek Thomas MP and the Cornwall Council Strategic Director for Economic Growth and Development to request that the legislation be changed to allow solar panels to be installed on Listed Buildings.

245. 2020/21 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 2021.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Williams, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the draft budget be approved as set out;
- b) the Precept for 2020/21 be set at £521,010;

It was further proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and

RESOLVED – that the 2020/21 Schedule of Fees and Charges be approved as set out.

246. Report of the Projects Officer

The Projects Officer updated Members on his report (circulated prior to the meeting) to confirm that the cost of the Cornwall Council licence for the installation of cycle stands in the Trengrouse Way Extension Car Park was £100.00. Following a brief debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council pay the £100 Cornwall Council licence fee for the installation of cycle stands in the Trengrouse Way Extension Car Park.

It was further proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council approved the Projects Group draft Terms of Reference.

Councillor Kenchington indicated that he would be willing to join the group from March 2020 as he would have more time available at that point. Councillor Edgcumbe indicated that he wished to join the group.

247. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Earth Protector Town

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

RESOLVED – that:

- a) in declaring Helston an Earth Protector Town, the Council undertook to collaborate and cooperate with communities, local government bodies, businesses and other organisations to protect land, wildlife, air, soil and water. The Council considered the repercussions of its decisions and rigorous care was observed to avoid environmental harm in the exercise of its functions;

- b) To protect the Earth, this Council would:
 - i) Endorse, support and, through the publication of this declaration, raise awareness of the Earth Protector movement which campaigned to amend the Rome statute and declare ecocide a crime at the International Criminal Court (ICC).
 - ii) Protect the community as best it could from environmental damage.
 - iii) Produce a strategy for the Council’s operations, including a date, to achieve a carbon zero future.
 - iv) Work with the community to guide action on becoming a carbon neutral town and programme awareness-raising about climate change into its community work.
 - v) Promote the movement from sustainable to regenerative living wherever possible across the town, including for households.
 - vi) Campaign with and support the community to achieve single use Plastic Free Community status.
 - vii) Work with the community to minimise the Town’s environmental impact and create a strategy to protect, enhance and connect ecosystems/habitats/species in and around the town.
 - viii) Raise awareness of climate and ecological emergencies through education, promotion of events and providing appropriate information.
 - ix) Pledge that any future investment decisions consider the environmental practices of the institutions involved, as well as existing legal requirements on public investments.
 - x) Assure transparent and regular reporting of the implementation of the above pledges (including where possible a shared database of participating stakeholders’ specific goals and progress achieved in attaining them).

- c) In declaring itself an Earth Protector Town, Helston was publicly supporting the campaign to amend the Rome statute and declare Ecocide a crime at the ICC.

(2) Business Crime Prevention Assessment

This item was noted.

(3) Materials Recycling Facility - Bodmin

This item was noted.

(4) Replacement of St Michael's Church Floor

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

RESOLVED – that St Michaels Church be provided with a letter of support for the replacement of the church floor.

Councillor R J L Boase and Mrs Boase abstained from the vote.

(5) Cornwall Council 5050 Project

Members agreed to host a Cornwall Council workshop, on a date to be set, which would feed into the 5050 Project.

248. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 544-561 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £37,791.77.

249. Attendance at Meetings

The Mayor expressed his disappointment that there had been no written reports from Council representatives' attendance at meetings and encouraged Members to submit reports in the future.

250. 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.

251. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

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.

252. Proceeds of Sale of 3 Penrose Road

The Town Clerk updated Members on the discussions regarding the proceeds from the sale of 3 Penrose Road.

253. Trenance Close Open Space

The Town Clerk updated Members on the situation regarding the Trenance Close Open Space.

Meeting closed at 9.26pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor