

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
R J L Boase
Mrs F N E Boase

M H Thomas
J P Radford-Gaby
J Martin

Mrs N Roberts
D Potter
P E Williams

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

154. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by Reverend Reed.

155. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Harrison and Grattan-Kane.

156. Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

a) Declarations of Interest

The Mayor and Councillor Thomas declared an interest in the Payment of Accounts (Agenda item 21) voucher 277 and 357 respectively.

b) Requests from Members for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

157. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock offered Cornwall Councillor P Martin's apologies advising that he was still unwell but improving. The Mayor requested that Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock pass on the Council's best wishes.

Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock then informed the Council that work would soon be starting on drafting plans to attempt to reduce the amount of traffic in Cross Street. She further advised that a budget of £30,000 had been brought forward for a scheme and assured Members that the Town Council and residents in that area would be consulted prior to any plans being drawn up.

In relation to Agenda item 18, Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the Community Link Officer and other Cornwall Council officers would be able to assist with preparing an Emergency Plan.

In response to a question, Cornwall Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the recycling of plastics trial had been relatively successful and was likely to be rolled out to the whole of Cornwall in the near future. She was of the opinion that more work was needed on educating households on which plastics should be recycled. Regarding the suggestion that the Gays Hill Recycling Centre open beyond 4.00pm, she confirmed that this was not possible due to the cost.

Cornwall Councillor Andrew Wallis informed Members that work on the Meneage Road crossing was due to commence on 19th October and Cornwall Council was in the process of recruiting a Crossing Patrol.

Cornwall Councillor Wallis advised that a Planning Application for 75 houses (HX3) was open for consultation. He further advised that he had raised issues regarding highway access and noise. Councillor J Martin advised that Town Council planning letters regarding this application were being delivered to nearby residents the following week.

Cornwall Councillor Wallis then referred to the Town Council's decision not to hold part of the Flora Day street market on Porthleven Road and to keep the road open. He advised that he had been in contact with the fair operators to discuss contributing to a road closure and hoped the Town Council would reconsider its decision. The Mayor confirmed that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the Council could not reconsider the matter until November.

158. Public Participation

A representative of the Helston Museum spoke in support of an event at the Museum to be held during September 2017 - Agenda Item 20(3). A series of events will be held based on craft skills culminating in one large event at the end of the month to include demonstrations in the Museum and Drill Hall Yard. The backing of many local organisations had already been obtained and it was hoped that the Town Council would also lend its support and assistance.

A representative of the Helston Christmas Lights addressed the Council to advise Members of the proposed Christmas events including the Lights Switch-on evening, Santa Fun Run and Reindeer visit. Linked to these events was Santa's Grotto and the Lights Committee's request to site the Grotto in the corner of Monument Walk was being considered by the Amenities Committee the following week. The Christmas Lights representative reiterated that the new Monument Walk surfacing would be protected and the site was well-lit and in full view of two CCTV cameras. She hoped the Amenities Committee would look favourably on the request.

A member of the public spoke in support of the Council's decision not to close the Porthleven Road on Flora Day from 2017. He was of the opinion that less people visited the fair and the pavement was wide enough for the volume of pedestrians.

A representative of the Helston Railway Preservation Society spoke in support of its grants application and also requested a letter of support that could be included in other funding bids.

A member of the public expressed his disappointment that the carnival had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. He was also concerned that the kennel on the north side of Coinagehall Street was deteriorating. The Mayor advised that the kennels were Cornwall Council's responsibility and the Town Council was pressing them to carry out the necessary improvements. In response to a question, Councillor Radford-Gaby advised that the Guildhall was being cleaned and re-pointed, plus some window repairs were required along with restoration of the sandstone carvings on the pediment incorporating the clock.

A representative of the Community Youth Music project referred to Agenda item 20(5) explaining that there was a lack of music facilities for young people in Helston. He had the support of a high-profile rock band and other organisations willing to donate equipment and sound-proofing but there currently had no premises and enquired if the Council could make any suggestions when it discussed the item later in the meeting.

The Chairman of the Helston Athletic Youth Football Club spoke in support of its grant application to purchase a pair of youth 11-a-side goals.

159. Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 21st July 2016 be approved and signed as a true record.

160. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Mayor advised that the Guildhall public conveniences had been twinned with a public toilet block in Sierra Leone.

161. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 21st July 2016, 4th August 2016 and 1st September 2016 be received.

162. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Special Amenities Committee meeting held on 4th August 2016 be received.

163. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 6th September 2016 be received.

164. Announcements

The Mayor encouraged Members to attend the Freedom Parade the following Wednesday. She then advised that the Friendship Club was seeking a new leader and she had hosted a meeting at which she had suggested they create a management committee.

The Town Clerk congratulated the Deputy Town Clerk on attaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration. The Council gave Miss Lavelle a round of applause.

Councillor Martin declared an interest in item 2.4 of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer's report.

165. Report of the Town Centre Regeneration Officer (TCRO)

The TCRO updated Members on the progress of the public realm project. He advised that, like with all major works projects, there had been some unforeseen issues including the necessity to re-design the new toilet block foundation, and the requirement to provide a sub-base for the surfacing of Monument Walk. To compensate for the additional costs, savings were being sought elsewhere in the project such as omitting the resurfacing of Castle Hill steps.

In response to a question, the TCRO advised that the project was due to be completed on 28th October but the contractors may request an additional week. He was confident all would be completed by Remembrance Sunday.

166. Coinagehall Street

The Mayor was of the opinion that improvements to Coinagehall Street could change how the town functions and encourage locals and visitors to stay in the town rather than simply drive through. She then suggested some areas that could be discussed including: holding street markets on the north (sunny) side; herring bone parking; one-way traffic; and outdoor café areas. She then asked Members to think of other ideas in advance of an informal meeting in early October.

In response to a question, the TCRO advised that a Traffic & Urban Realm Study had been conducted the previous year including traffic management options for the town. Herring bone parking in Coinagehall Street could only be achieved if the flow of traffic was one-way. At that time it was agreed not to change anything in Coinagehall Street due to the potential knock on effect to traffic elsewhere, but to make improvements to what was already there.

Councillor Potter suggested introducing traffic-free periods during the day and consideration needed to be given to Meneage Street and Wendron Street at the same time.

The Mayor emphasised that there were no current plans to prevent traffic entering Meneage Street.

167. Helston Message Board

Councillor Potter outlined his proposal to introduce an on-line Helston message board to encourage greater interaction. He emphasised it would not be a Town Council message board, but a community message board and sought Members' approval prior to liaising with other groups and reporting back.

In response to a question, Councillor Potter advised that there would be an agreed set of guidelines and messages would be moderated by members of the community with the Town Council acting as back-up.

On the proposition of Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Radford-Gaby, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council supported the funding, creation and management of a message board for the benefit of Helston residents.

168. Helston Emergency Plan

Councillor R Williams advised that the initial requirement was for the Town Council to agree that it wanted to produce an Emergency Plan. The Town Clerk advised that the drafting of an Emergency Plan was already included in the Strategic Plan for completion in 2017/18, but this timeline could be brought forward.

On the proposition of Councillor R Williams, seconded by Councillor Martin, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the production of an Emergency Plan for Helston be brought forward.

169. Report of the Traffic Regulation Order Working Party

Members considered the Notes of the first Traffic Regulation Order Working Party meeting (circulated prior to the meeting).

Councillor Thomas advised that the Working Party was gathering information and there would be further meetings. The Notes of the meeting held on 1st September 2016 only contained suggestions from Members. The parishes in the Helston & the Lizard Community Network had been contacted to forward requirements in their areas and there would be consultations with members of the public. Councillor Thomas further advised that there were many suggestions to explore and requested the Council's permission to continue. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and unanimously.

RESOLVED – that the Notes of the Traffic Regulation Order Working Party be received and permission be given to continue working towards applying for a Traffic Regulation Order.

170. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Grants

a) Determination of whether a grant be awarded

It was agreed to award a grant to each of the seven organisations that had applied:-

- i) Cornubian Arts & Science Trust
Proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Potter
- ii) Helston Athletic Youth Football Club
Proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Thomas
- iii) Helston Cricket Club
Proposed by Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Thomas
- iv) Helston & District Town Twinning Association
Proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Potter
- v) Helston & the Lizard Foodbank
Proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Potter
- vi) Helston Railway Preservation Society
Proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Mrs Roberts
- vii) Shelter Cornwall
Proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Martin

b) Determination of amount of grant funding awarded

i) Cornubian Arts & Science Trust

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Radford-Gaby, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a grant of £500 be awarded to the Cornubian Arts & Science Trust to run projects with local schools.

ii) Helston Athletic Youth Football Club

On the proposition of Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor R Williams, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that a grant of £1,780.52 be awarded to Helston Athletic Youth Football Club to purchase a set of 11-a-side goals.

iii) Helston Cricket Club

It was proposed by Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Martin, and

RESOLVED – that a grant of £1,500 be awarded to the Helston Cricket Club for new practice nets and matting.

iv) Helston & District Town Twinning Association

On the proposition of Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor Martin, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that a grant of £500 be awarded to the Helston & District Town Twinning Association to help young people participate in twinning.

v) Helston & the Lizard Foodbank

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Potter it was

RESOLVED – that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to the Helston Foodbank towards repairing its portacabin storage unit.

vi) Helston Railway Preservation Society

It was proposed by Councillor Potter, seconded by Councillor R J L Boase, that a grant of £500 be awarded to the Helston Railway Preservation Society to part fund the renovation of a steam engine.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor R Williams, that a grant of £750 be awarded to the Helston Railway Preservation Society to part fund the renovation of a steam engine. The Amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED - that a grant of £750 be awarded to the Helston Railway Preservation Society to part fund the renovation of a steam engine.

vii) Shelter Cornwall

It was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, that a grant of £250 be awarded to Shelter Cornwall to support its services to residents of Helston. An Amendment was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor Martin, that a grant of £1,969.48 be awarded to Shelter Cornwall to support its services to residents of Helston. The Amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that a grant of £1,969.48 be awarded to Shelter Cornwall to support its services to residents of Helston.

(2) Marketing and Events Group

On the proposition of Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Radford-Gaby, it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor Grattan-Kane be elected as a Representative on the Helston Marketing & Events Group.

(3) Museum Events – September 2017

Councillor Radford-Gaby spoke in support of the events. It was then proposed by Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by the Mayor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council would support the Museum's September 2017 events in any way it could.

(4) Statue of Bob Fitzsimmons

Following a discussion regarding possible locations for a statue of Bob Fitzsimmons, it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council's preferred location for a statue of Bob Fitzsimmons was the grassed verge adjacent to the Sunken Garden.

Councillor R Williams requested that his voted against the Motion be recorded.

(5) Helston Music Foundation

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Order 1.14 be suspended to allow the representative of the Helston Music Foundation (HMF) to answer Members' questions.

In response to questions, the HMF representative confirmed that the Foo Fighters band would provide equipment, a company had offered to sound-proof a premises and the facilities would be available to all young people from the area. He also advised that the ideal premises would have three practice rooms plus a recording facility. The intention was to create a CIC to manage the project and to create a fund. However, there did not appear to be grant funding available to purchase premises.

Councillor R Williams suggested that there were a number of empty chapels that could be investigated.

Responding to a further question, the HMF representative confirmed that there would be sound technology and lighting engineering included in the proposed project.

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

RESOLVED – that Standing Order 1.14 be resumed.

The Mayor requested that the Press include the search for premises in one of its articles.

(6) Electoral Review

The Town Clerk encouraged Members to respond to the Electoral Review consultation.

(7) Local Council Award Scheme

Further to Min. No. 543/2015 the Town Clerk explained the Local Council Award Scheme application process and the requirement to pass a resolution confirming it had certain policies, procedures and documents in place. Following a short discussion it was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Roberts, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council met the criteria contained on pages 7, 11 and 15 of LCAS Guidance Manual.

The Town Clerk then informed Members that its Helston & the Lizard Works project had been long-listed for a National Association of Local Councils (NALC) 2016 Star Award. The seventeen projects on the Long-list would be short-listed to three prior to a presentation ceremony on 19th October 2016.

171. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 264-313 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £21,644.85 be received and Account Nos. 314-372 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, in the total sum of £28,875.20 be certified for payment.

172. Attendance at Meetings

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

RESOLVED – that the written reports regarding Helston in Bloom and CCTV be received.

173. 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.

Councillor R J L Boase requested an item to discuss a proposed fun run to be organised by the Harvest Fair Committee, Lions and other local organisations.

The Mayor requested an item to consider the Tour of Britain cycling race.

Meeting closed at 9.58pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor