

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY
ON THURSDAY 16TH JULY 2020 AT 6.30 PM

Councillors: J Martin (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R J L Boase
Mrs F N E Boase
M H Thomas
Mrs G A Geer

Mrs N Roberts
T E Grattan-Kane
Rev D P Reed

R F Edgcumbe
M J Kenchington
B Thomas

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

23. Absent without submitting an Apology

Councillor Williams was absent without submitting an apology.

24. Public Participation

A member of the public suggested that the Meneage Street road closure be reintroduced at the weekends, Saturdays 8am – 6pm and Sundays 8am – 4pm. He was of the opinion that it would appease businesses that could operate as normal Monday – Friday and save on the parking refund scheme as Sundays was free parking all day.

The Mayor advised that he had been in contact with some businesses that were minded to create a business forum and they had suggested something similar. He then advised that he would like to head up a review group with business representatives and the member of the public to progress the idea and formally present a proposal to the Town Council to include costs and legal aspects.

A second member of the public expressed the opinion that vulnerable people could not visit the town centre since the road closure was lifted. She then advised that she was attending a virtual meeting the following week to learn more about Citizens Panels and invited the Members and the Projects Officer to join her if available. The member of the public also requested an update on the Council's reviewing of policies per the Helston Climate Action Plan. Councillor Grattan-Kane (Chair of Policy, Finance & Resources Committee) advised that an item had been placed on the P,F&R Committee agenda for the following week to create a Policies Review Working Party to review all policies over the summer.

Another member of the public spoke about nature recovery and its importance within towns requesting that Members focus on insects and to encourage residents not to use pesticides. She also suggested that grass verges be cut just once a year and to educate the general public as to why it was important and to look out for wooden blue hearts which were a sign that land was being managed for wildlife.

25. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th June 2020 be approved and signed as a true record.

26. Matters Arising

Councillor Edgcumbe enquired whether the Town Centre Attractiveness Working Party had met and if so, what decisions had it made. The Projects Officer advised that it had met and agreed the purchase of bunting but with some traffic allowed into Meneage Street other ideas proved too difficult to implement. The Town Clerk added that the creation of the Working Party was specific to the 3-week closure and was therefore disbanded.

27. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2nd July 2020, be received.

28. Decisions of Informal Full Council Meetings

The following decisions made at informal Full Council meetings were noted:

Informal Full Council – Saturday 27th June 2020

Continue with the Meneage Street road closure and review on 1st July 2020.

Informal Full Council – Wednesday 1st July 2020

Continue with the Meneage Street road closure until Saturday 11th July 2020 and review on Thursday 9th July 2020.

Contract professional security guards for the road closure barrier funded from the £15k grant from Cornwall Council.

Re-open the five equipped play areas on Saturday 4th July 2020.

Informal Full Council – Thursday 9th July 2020

Finish the road closure at 4pm on Friday 10th July 2020.

Continue to reimburse 1-hour car parking in Trengrouse Way and Tyacke Road car parks until the end of July and review again.

Promote the 1-hour parking refund scheme through participating businesses only and reimburse the businesses by BACs.

29. Announcements

The Mayor informed Members that he had formally opened the new Fisherman's Mission shop earlier in the week. He also advised that he was meeting with some proprietors of businesses in Meneage Street to discuss the possibility of creating a business forum.

The Mayor then congratulated Miss Pamela Lavelle on her appointment as Town Clerk commencing on 1st January 2021.

30. Report on the Helston Climate Action Group (HCAG)

The Mayor reported on the recent activities of the HCAG which included the following:

- HCAG was keen for the Town Council to pursue a feasibility study grant from the Rural Community Energy Fund for a renewable energy project in Helston.
- HCAG was signing up to the Blue Campaign to promote rewilding in gardens, parks and other public areas.
- Wildflower turf had been laid at Coronation Park.
- Incredible Edible Helston was clearing space at Coronation Park to build stone-walled beds for community growing.
- HCAG was supporting a Cornubian Arts & Science Trust (CAST) programme of family activities in the Cober Valley and Penrose Estate during August.
- The Helston Local Food Hub had got underway and was receiving 25-30 weekly orders on-line.
- Local schools had been contacted inviting them to become involved with Incredible Edible, Blue Campaign, Forest for Helston and Solar for Schools.
- The Communication & Education group was trialling a carbon foot-printing app – Giki Zero.
- HCAG had been contacted regarding setting up a community larder and was exploring the possibility

Regarding a community larder, Councillor Reverend Reed advised that the Central Methodist Church had a similar project which he was willing to discuss with the HCAG.

31. Re-opening of the Town Centre

The Mayor thanked the volunteers that had been involved with the Meneage Street road closure. The Projects Officer then outlined the pavement license

requirements for businesses wishing to place tables and chairs outside their premises and advised that he had been passing on information to those that had made enquiries.

Following a suggestion by the Town Clerk it was proposed by Councillor M H Thomas, seconded by Councillor Kenchington and

RESOLVED – that the decision on whether to extend the 1-hour parking refund scheme beyond 31st July 2020 be delegated to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in consultation with all Members.

Councillor Kenchington made reference to a ‘U-turn’ headline on a local news website and was of the opinion that this was incorrect although the content of the article was accurate. It was agreed not to enter into correspondence regarding the reporting.

Councillor Edgcumbe requested clarification on who had made the decision to close Meneage Street. Councillor M H Thomas advised that the decision had been taken by the Town Council working with Cornwall Council and advice from Cornwall Council officers. The Mayor confirmed that senior Cornwall Councillor officers had advised the street be closed sooner than the Town Council expected for public safety reasons. Following a detailed discussion it was proposed by Councillor Edgcumbe, seconded by Councillor B Thomas, that a Special Full Council meeting be held in public to discuss how the closure of Meneage Street decision had been made. The Motion failed.

It was then proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor M H Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that the meeting move on.

32. Action Counter Terrorism Training

Councillor Grattan-Kane outlined the benefits of Members and officers undertaking the on-line Action Counter Terrorism training. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Grattan-Kane, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Members and Officers undertake the on-line e-learning package ‘Action Counter Terrorism’ and to encourage the emergency volunteers to undertake the training.

33. Report of the Projects Officer

The Projects Officer updated Members on his report (circulated prior to the meeting).

- Leats & Kennels - The proposed exhibition in the museum would be delayed until the following Spring. A future management model had been discussed by the Wendron Leats & Helston Kennels Group.

Councillor M H Thomas requested a ‘Leats & Kennels’ item be placed on the following Full Council agenda.

- Markets - A stall-holders Agreement had been drafted and forwarded to the Projects Group. The purchasing of promotional sail flags and signs

would be deferred as there would be a limited number of markets in 2020.

- The cycle stands for Trengrouse Way car park would be installed later in the month.

34. Grant Application

The Town Clerk advised that it was necessary to consider the grant application ahead of the scheduled grants meeting in September as the funds were required for a project over the summer. He then advised that Cornwall Councillor Andrew Wallis had confirmed a grant of £250 from his Community Chest.

It was proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, that a grant of £1,000.00 be awarded to the South Kerrier Alliance CIC, under emergency funding linked to Covid-19, to provide a Youth Worker at Coronation Park.

An Amendment was proposed by Councillor R J L Boase, seconded by Councillor B Thomas, that a grant of £1,250.00 be awarded to the South Kerrier Alliance CIC, under emergency funding linked to Covid-19, to provide a Youth Worker at Coronation Park. The Amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that a grant of £1,250.00 be awarded to the South Kerrier Alliance CIC, under emergency funding linked to Covid-19, to provide a Youth Worker at Coronation Park.

35. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 183-249 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £46,764.30.

Meeting closed at 8.41pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor