

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD VIRTUALLY
ON THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2020 AT 6.30 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
T E Grattan-Kane

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)

176. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Reverend Reed.

177. Dispensation

On the proposition of Councillor M H Thomas, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor B Thomas receive a dispensation to remain in meetings, take part in the debate and vote on matters relating to the Helston Community Interest Company until the end of the Council term in May 2021.

Councillor B Thomas abstained from the vote.

178. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Councillor Martin had been involved in casework relating to housing, building control, highways and anti-social behaviour issues. He had also attended a number of planning and licensing meetings. Cornwall Councillor Martin then made particular mention of the preparations to create a pedestrian crossing on Meneage Street and his involvement with the Place Shaping Board funding submission. A discussion ensued regarding the recent rise in anti-social behaviour in Helston. Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that Cornwall Councillor Thomas and himself met with Inspector Martin Roberts every Thursday and would continue to report the anti-social behaviour incidents. The Town Clerk added that it was important that Members encouraged residents to report all incidents to the Police.

Cornwall Councillor Thomas advised that he had been involved in a variety of casework including housing, planning and street lighting. He had continued conversations regarding the leats & kennels and had also been encouraging residents to respond to the B3297 improvements consultation. Strategically, Cornwall Council's focus had been on the 2021/22 budget and Cornwall Councillor Thomas invited comments and questions. He then advised that Helston was considered a safe town as the number of recorded incidents was relatively low so it was important to report all incidents. He further advised that the flood defence system at St Johns had been completed by the Environment Agency. The Mayor agreed to issue a Press Release on the project.

The Town Clerk confirmed that no report had been received from Cornwall Councillor Wallis.

179. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th November 2020 be approved and signed as a true record.

Councillor Mrs Roberts abstained from the vote as she had not been present at that meeting.

180. Minutes of the Planning Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3rd December 2020, be received.

181. Minutes of the Amenities Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor Mrs Geer, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 26th November 2020, be received.

182. Announcements

The Mayor made the following announcements:

- The Mayor expressed his gratitude to those that had contributed to his Christmas Appeal for funds to assist the Helston Foodbank;
- He thanked the Environment Agency and its contractor Kier for completing the Helston flood alleviation scheme;
- He had judged the Christmas shop window display competition with 29 businesses taking part;
- The Helston CIC Christmas Market was a success;
- He thanked everyone involved with the Helston Emergency Response Team that had stood down after assisting the isolated and vulnerable during the latest lockdown; and
- He had attended a virtual twining Christmas Party with representatives of Sasso Marconi and Plougasnou.

183. 2021/22 Budget

The Council considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk (circulated prior to the meeting) together with the final draft budget for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2022.

It was proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Grattan-Kane, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the draft budget be approved as set out;
- b) the Precept for 2021/22 be set at £557,740.

Councillor Edgcumbe requested that his vote against the Motion be recorded.

It was further proposed by Councillor Kenchington, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the 2021/22 Schedule of Fees and Charges be approved as set out.

Councillor Edgcumbe requested that his vote against the Motion be recorded.

184. Report of the Projects Officer

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

- Town Vitality Fund and Place Shaping Board – This item was for Members’ information as decisions would be made at a Special Full Council meeting on 6th January 2021.
- Helston Cultural Quarter (Market Place) – The survey of the Penrose Road car park had been undertaken and a report was expected by the end of December.
- Helston Energy Scoping Study – The South West Energy Hub would be revising the energy scoping proposals to provide a focus for a new Rural Community Energy Fund bid in March or June.
- Re-opening Town Centres Safely Fund Phase 2 – Some items included in the Phase I bid were no longer eligible, therefore the Phase II bid would be revised before submission.

185. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) E-Learning Courses

This item was noted.

186. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 540-593 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £40,345.19.

187. Exclusion of the Press and Public

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

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 item of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Prior to her leaving the meeting, the Mayor thanked Mrs Ferguson – Helston Packet - for regularly attending the meetings and reporting fairly on Council matters.

188. Council Accommodation

Members considered the Confidential Report of the Town Clerk regarding Council accommodation. Mr S Hole of 3HW Architecture & Design answered Members' questions then left the meeting prior to the debate.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Geer, seconded by Councillor B Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that the Council proceed with the purchase of a building with delegated authority given to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to negotiate the price up to a specified maximum.

Councillors Williams and Edgcumbe requested that their votes against the Motion be recorded.

It was further proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Kenchington, and

RESOLVED – that the purchase price and refurbishment cost be met with a 30-year loan from the Public Works Loans Board.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor