

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON**  
**ON THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 7.15 PM**

**Councillors:** N.J.C. Devenish (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R J L Boase  
K Reynolds

Mrs F N E Boase  
R R Pryor

M H Thomas  
J P Radford-Gaby

**Officers:** Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)  
Miss P J Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)  
Mrs S Price (Administrative Assistant)  
Mr C Bowcutt (Town Warden)

**194. Prayers**

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Dorothy Noakes.

**195. Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Mrs Swift and Phillips who were unwell, Councillor Mrs Matthew who was on holiday and Councillor D.C. Swift who was caring for Councillor Mrs Swift.

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

RESOLVED – that the Apologies be received and accepted.

**196. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor R.J.L. Boase declared a personal interest in item 2 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 15) as a member of the Christmas Lights Committee. Councillor Mrs Boase declared a personal interest in item 1 h) of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 15) as a bell ringer at St. Michael's Church. Councillor Thomas declared a personal interest in items 1 f), g) and h) of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 15) as a member of Helston Community College and a member of St. Michael's Church.

**197. Police Matters**

As there was no representative of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary present it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that this item be deferred until later in the meeting.

**198. Public Participation**

Miss E Goodfellow queried what had happened to the litter bin outside the Job Centre in Coinagehall Street. The Mayor advised that the bin had been removed whilst repair works were carried out and it would be replaced on completion of the work.

Mr V Curnow spoke regarding a report on the Electoral Review in the Press and apologised to the Town Council and the electorate if they had felt poorly represented. Mr Curnow expressed the opinion that he felt the Unitary Authority was the right decision and he wished the three Cornwall Councillors present well for the future.

**199. Minutes**

The Town Clerk informed Members that Minute No. 161/2009 had been corrected to read 'seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase' and not Councillor Pryor as circulated in the draft Minutes. On the proposition of Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009 be approved subject to the above amendment and signed as a true record.

**200. Minutes of the Planning Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009, be received.

**201. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and the Special Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2009, be received.

**202. Announcements**

The Mayor welcomed Mrs S Price to Helston Town Council. He then reminded Members of the Litter and Weed Clearance event organised by the Keep Helston Tidy Working Party on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm. The Mayor also spoke on the project to provide a Teen Play Area in Penrose and informed Members that Cornwall Council had refused to allow a play area on that site.

The Town Clerk advised that the Council Photograph was in his office and requested that any Members who wished to purchase a copy inform him at their earliest convenience.

**203. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors and the Community Network Manager**

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Councillor Robertson gave a detailed report on his activities at Cornwall Council and made particular mention to the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee she had held an enquiry day regarding Community Networks and had also Chaired an enquiry day regarding the Private Finance Initiative for affordable housing. Councillor Mrs Haycock further advised that the replacement of the railings in Five Wells Lane was an ongoing project and she had also met with the Fire Service who wished to give monthly reports on their activities to Town and Parish Councils.

Councillor Wallis gave a report and made particular mention to the Electoral Review and a meeting with the Police regarding issues in the Helston South Area.

Councillor Radford-Gaby advised that he was impressed to see the kennels in Penrose Road cleared by the Community Pay Back Scheme and queried if the Scheme was being used to its full potential. Councillors Mrs Haycock and Wallis advised that the Community Pay Back Scheme had just started and they were looking at utilising the facility further.

The Mayor commented on the condition of the town and queried why the Cornwall Council street cleaners no longer used the trolley which meant that litter was picked up but no longer swept up. Councillor Robertson expressed the opinion that litter picking and weed clearance would be better dealt with locally and confirmed that he would find out what had happened to the trolley.

The Mayor spoke on the refusal by Cornwall Council to give permission for a Teen Play Area in the Penrose Amenity Area and expressed confusion regarding the reasons given in the letter when the site was an existing play area. The Mayor requested a meeting to discuss the situation at the earliest opportunity and asked that Cornwall Council reconsider their decision. The Cornwall Councillors responded explaining the reasons for refusal. Councillor Wallis, as the Ward Member, agreed to have a meeting with the Mayor but confirmed he would stand by the comments in the letter.

b) Community Network Manager

Mrs C Chadwick gave a detailed report and particularly mentioned the Heritage Lottery bid for Coronation Park and a meeting with Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change regarding funding for a project in the Bulwark Estate. Mrs Chadwick then invited two representatives from Helston Town Council to attend a meeting regarding the Bulwark Estate. The Mayor expressed the opinion that the Helston West Ward Members for the area should be given the first opportunity to attend the meeting. On the proposal of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, it was

RESOLVED – that the two Helston West Ward Members attend the Bulwark Estate meeting if able.

**204. Questions received from Members pursuant to Standing Order 15 (h)**

Two questions had been raised by Councillor Phillips under Standing Order 15 (h) which were answered accordingly by the Town Clerk.

**205. Surfacing of Pavements in the Conservation Area**

The Mayor advised that this item had been placed on the Agenda by Councillor Phillips but he had agreed to speak on the subject in Councillor Phillips' absence as they had previously discussed the issue. The Mayor advised that the concerns could be illustrated by the length of pavement at the junction of Church Street and Cross Street where a small section had been filled with tarmac even though it was a very historic area. It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to Cornwall Council to request that:

- a) the problem with the pavement at the junction of Church Street and Cross Street be rectified; and
- b) the pavements be brought up to standard throughout the Conservation Area.

## **206. Complaints Log**

Councillor Reynolds spoke regarding the Complaints Log and requested Members' permission for the Log to be modified and e-mailed to the Cornwall Council Ward Members. It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by the Mayor, and

RESOLVED – that the Complaints Log:

- a) be modified to include a unique reference number and the Cornwall Council Ward; and
- b) be e-mailed to the Cornwall Council Ward Members.

Councillor Reynolds further requested that the Complaints Log be included on the Town Council's website. The Town Clerk advised that the modification required to the website would cost £135.00. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Radford-Gaby, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council's website be modified to include the Complaints Log at a cost of £135.00.

## **207. Police Matters**

The Mayor welcomed WPC Butcher who apologised for her lateness due to attending an incident. She then presented a report detailing recent crime figures. WPC Butcher also advised Members that a number of residents of Bullock Lane had requested that street lighting be provided. The Mayor confirmed that this was a responsibility of Cornwall Council.

## **208. Prioritisation of Pot-hole Repairs**

Councillor Thomas spoke on the subject of prioritising pot-hole repairs which had been raised at the previous Full Council meeting and asked how Helston Town Council could assist Cornwall Council with the prioritisation. A detailed debate ensued during which several suggestions were made. At the conclusion of the debate it was agreed that the Town Clerk contact Cornwall Council's Highways Department to establish their proposed method of prioritisation.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor R.J.L. Boase, and

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Cornwall Councillors to speak.

Councillor Mrs Haycock informed Members that the suggestion had only been made at the previous meeting after the Town Council had raised concerns regarding the prioritisation of repairs and she had spoken to the Area Highway Manager.

Councillor Wallis advised that he would forward on any complaints he received and suggested that the Town Warden report any pot-holes that he discovered in the course of his work.

Councillor Robertson advised that potholes were much deeper than most people believed and they were dealt with immediately.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be resumed.

## **209. Report of the Town Clerk**

### **(1) Grant Applications**

The Town Clerk advised that a further application for financial support had been received (item 8 of the Supplemental Report) and should be considered along with this item. Twelve grant applications were individually considered.

#### **(a) 1<sup>st</sup> Helston Scouts Group**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £200.00 in respect of the 1<sup>st</sup> Helston Scout Group.

#### **(b) Air Training Corps 3 (Helston) Squadron**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £200.00 in respect of Air Training Corps 3 (Helston) Squadron.

#### **(c) Carleen Community Church Care Centre**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £200.00 in respect of Carleen Community Church Care Centre.

#### **(d) Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust**

On the proposition of Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Thomas, it was

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £200.00 in respect of the Cornwall Air Ambulance.

#### **(e) Helston AFC Youth**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £200.00 in respect of the Development Plan for new youth pitches.

**(f) Helston School Jazz Orchestra**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £200.00 in respect of Helston School Jazz Orchestra.

**(g) Home Start**

On the proposition of Councillor Pryor, seconded by Councillor Thomas, it was

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £100.00 in respect of Home Start.

**(h) Phoenix Project**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £200.00 in respect of the Phoenix Project mentoring course.

**(i) St. Michael's Church**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £150.00 in respect of the repair and automation of St. Michael's Church clock.

**(j) The Cober Centre**

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Pryor, and

RESOLVED – that no grant be awarded to the The Cober Centre.

**Councillor Thomas voted against the motion**

**(k) Truro Hospital Radio**

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

RESOLVED - that, in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves expenditure in the sum of £100.00 in respect of Truro Hospital Radio.

**(1) The Milestone Society**

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that no grant be awarded to the Milestone Society and that the Town Clerk contact the organisation to explain the reasons why the Council were unable to give a grant.

**(2) Christmas Lights**

On the proposition of Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Pryor, it was

RESOLVED – that:

- a) in pursuance of the powers conferred by Section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that Section, the Council approves a £1000 grant towards the Christmas Lights; and
- b) the Christmas Lights Committee be given permission to utilise electricity from the Guildhall to power lights in that vicinity.

**(3) Cornwall Association of Local Councils**

**(a) General Meeting**

This item was noted.

**(b) Expression of Interest in Attending Focus Groups**

Members considered a survey regarding Expressions of Interest in attending Focus Groups (circulated prior to the meeting) and compiled their responses. It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council submit an Expression of Interest with the agreed responses.

**210. Adjournment**

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

RESOLVED - that the Meeting stood adjourned at 9.17pm.

The Meeting resumed at 9.22pm.

**211. Report of the Town Clerk (cont.)**

**(4) Kerrier District Council (Helston Footpath 19)  
Public Path Diversion (No2) Order 2008**

This item was noted.

**(5) Obstruction of Footways**

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by the Mayor, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk contact the Local Cornwall Councillors to request their opinion on the removal of A-frames from the footway and the matter be deferred until the following Full Council meeting.

**Councillor Pryor voted against the motion.**

**(6) Police Authority Liaison Meeting**

This item was noted.

**(7) Tree Nursery**

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Radford-Gaby, and

RESOLVED – that Members supported a partnership between the Council, Transition Helston and the National Trust.

**Councillors R.J.L. Boase, Mrs Boase, Pryor and Thomas declared a personal interest in this item as Members of the National Trust.**

**(8) Helston Community College**

This item was noted.

**212. Report of the Town Warden**

The Mayor requested that the Town Warden include in his report approximately how much litter he had collected each month.

Following a brief debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor R.J.L. Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Warden be given permission to make further investigations into youth diversionary work.

**The Mayor declared an interest in the following item.**

**The Deputy Mayor took the chair at 9.44pm**

**213. Schedule of Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 170-204 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £15,089.87.

(The Mayor declared an interest in Account No. 184.)

**The Mayor resumed the Chair at 9.48pm**

**214. Attendances at Meetings**

Councillor Radford-Gaby and Councillor Thomas had attended the Code of Conduct training.

Councillor Reynolds together with the Mayor and Councillors R.J.L. Boase and Mrs Boase had attended the open evening at the Mustard Seed regarding a proposed dry bar.

The Mayor informed Members that together with the Town Clerk he had attended a meeting with Dr McGovern at Helston School and Community College and gave a detailed report.

**215. 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.

**216. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

On the proposition of Councillor Pryor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, 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.

**217. Confidential Report of the Town Clerk**

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (circulated at the meeting) that contained correspondence from the Council's solicitor. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor R.J.L. Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council's solicitors be instructed to continue with the Defence.

Members also considered a letter received from the Helston & District Community Association's solicitor. It was then proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that Councillors Mrs Swift and Reynolds, together with the Town Clerk, meet with the Council's solicitor to agree a response to a letter received from the Helston & District Community Association's solicitor.

**Meeting closed at 10.08pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**