

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON**  
**ON THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.15 PM**

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

R. Williams  
Mrs S.M.E. Swift  
P. Phillips  
R.J.L. Boase

K. Reynolds  
Mrs V.J. Matthew  
D.C. Swift  
Mrs F.N.E. Boase

M.H. Thomas  
J.P. Radford-Gaby

**Officers:** Mr C. Dawson (Town Clerk)  
Miss P.J. Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)  
Mr C. Bowcutt (Town Warden)

**245. Prayers**

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

**246. Apologies**

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Pryor as he was attending a family member's funeral.

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

RESOLVED – that the Apology be received and accepted.

**247. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Matthew declared an interest in items 7 and 8 of the Town Clerk's Report (Agenda item 13) as a member of Transition Helston.

**248. Public Participation**

Mr Harris advised that he supported Councillor Wallis when he said that Penrose was not a suitable location for the proposed teen play area as the main residential area was the top of the town, and advised that the Police had done a good job quietening the area down. Mr Harris then suggested additional notice boards in the new estates around the town to advise people how to contact the Town Council. The Mayor suggested that notice boards be included on the Agenda for the next Amenities Committee meeting.

Mr I Perry requested additional disabled parking at Coronation Park and requested an update on the provision of 30mph warning signs and a pedestrian crossing on the Porthleven Road. The Mayor advised that Cornwall Council were the Authority responsible for the issues raised. Mr Perry then requested an update regarding a proposed bus shelter in Coinagehall Street. Councillor Mrs Swift advised that a design had been suggested which could be suitable for the area and reminded Mr Perry that it was Cornwall Council's decision. Mr Perry then enquired about the amount that Cornwall Council were reported to be in debt. The Mayor advised that he could not comment on Cornwall Council's budget but confirmed that Helston Town Council was not in debt.

**249. Minutes**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and the Minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 be approved and signed as a true record.

**250. Minutes of the Planning Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 17<sup>th</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009, be received.

**251. Minutes of the Amenities Committee**

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Phillips, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009, be received.

**252. Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee**

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009, be received.

**253. Announcements**

The Mayor informed Members that Town ties and ladies scarves were available at a cost of £10 with the proceeds going to the Mayor's Welfare Fund. The Mayor then publicly thanked the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary Neighbourhood Beat Team for allowing him the opportunity to accompany them on patrol.

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

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that she had attended a Cross Street Residents Association meeting and confirmed that, whilst residents requested traffic calming measures, the budget was not currently available but bollards could be installed along the pavement to prevent parking. Following an article in the newspaper Councillor Mrs Haycock queried if the Community Centre could be given to the Helston and District Community Association. The Mayor advised that he had no further comment to make in response to the article. Councillor Mrs Haycock then advised that the Helston & District Community Association wished to have a meeting with the Town Council and which the Community Network Manager could facilitate. The Mayor advised that the Helston & District Community Association should contact the Town Council direct if they wished to have a meeting. Councillor Mrs Haycock further queried why she had not received a response from the Mayor to her e-mail regarding alternative suggestions for a site for a play area. The Mayor advised that he had not yet responded as he was waiting for a meeting with Councillor Wallis to discuss the issue.

Councillor Thomas queried why the traffic lights in Coinagehall Street had been replaced. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the traffic lights were 15 years old and it was Cornwall Council policy to replace them when they reached that age before failures occurred.

Councillor Wallis advised that he was willing to contact the Mayor to arrange a meeting to discuss the play area. In response to Mr Perry's questions, Councillor Wallis advised that a pedestrian crossing on the Porthleven Road was a priority but there was currently no funding available. Councillor Wallis further advised that the speed limit signage on the Porthleven Road was currently legal and no further provision was planned. Also, the amount of disabled parking spaces provided at Coronation Park complied with guidelines. Councillor Wallis then gave a detailed report during which he made particular mention of his Community Grant Fund, the Bulwark Road Working Group and details of licensing applications which were included on the Cornwall Council website. Councillor Wallis further advised that the Town Warden was an asset on the Bulwark Road Working Group and expressed the hope that he would continue to be involved.

Councillor Mrs Boase advised that there was no sand in the sandpit in the Children's Play Area at Coronation Park. Councillor Wallis confirmed that he would ensure the problem was rectified.

The Mayor advised that Councillor Robertson had given his apologies but had provided a report which was circulated in Members' folders.

Councillor Clayton updated Members on the status of the water supply for the Kennels and also advised that he was one of three Cornwall Council representatives on the Police Authority.

b) Community Network Manager

Mrs C Chadwick gave a detailed report and made particular mention of the Community Consultation Event and the Keep Safe Event both at Helston Community College. Mrs Chadwick also advised Members that a consultation event regarding a Youth Dry Bar would be held in the Godolphin Club on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

**255. Report of the Town Clerk**

**(1) Obstruction of the Pavement**

This item was noted.

**(2) Review of Designated Public Places Orders 2009/2010**

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that a request be submitted to include the Trengrouse Way Amenity Area, Castle Green Car Park, the steps from the Bowling Green to Castle Green, the Coinage Ope and the King George V Play Area in the Designated Public Places Order.

**(3) Bulwark Working Group**

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

RESOLVED – that this item be deferred until the following Full Council meeting to allow clarification of the requested number of representatives on the Bulwark Working Group.

#### **(4) Community Network Panels**

Members considered a Questionnaire from Cornwall Council regarding Community Network Panels. Councillor Mrs Swift advised Members that the Portfolio Holder had attended recent meetings of the Cornwall Association of Local Council's and the Larger Local Council's and gave a report. A detailed debate ensued with Members expressing their opinions on Community Network Panels at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk draft a reply based on the consensus of opinion agreed during the debate.

#### **(5) Temporary Prohibition of Traffic**

This item was noted.

#### **(6) Media Awareness Training**

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the Media Awareness Training.

#### **(7) Tree Nursery**

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor R.J.L. Boase, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that:

- a) Members supported the partnership but deferred the request for financial assistance until the following Full Council meeting to provide an opportunity for the Tree Warden, the National Trust and Transition Helston to make a presentation on the Tree Nursery Scheme; and
- b) the Town Clerk contact Councillor Wallis to seek funding for the Tree Nursery Scheme.

#### **(8) Cornish Climate Change Declaration**

During the debate Members expressed concerns that the Declaration included a pledge on behalf of visitors to Cornwall. It was then proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, that the Town Council endorsed the Cornish Climate Change Declaration. The Motion failed and it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Council did not endorse the Cornish Climate Change Declaration.

**Councillor Thomas abstained from the vote.**

It was then proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that campaign organisers be given permission to use the Guildhall for refreshments on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**256. Report of the Town Warden**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Warden attend the Network meeting in Stroud on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

The Town Clerk advised that, following a request to Cornwall Council, the Town Council would be provided with twenty litter pickers, reflective bibs and plastic bags and Direct Services agreed to pick up any rubbish collected by arrangement.

The report was then noted.

**257. Schedule of Accounts for Payment**

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 205-257 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £22,308.92.

(Councillors Williams and R.J.L. Boase declared an interest in Account Nos. 247 and 216 respectively.)

It was agreed that the cheques would be signed by Councillor Williams and Councillor Mrs Swift.

**258. Attendances at Meetings**

Councillor Mrs Boase had attended the Playing for Real Workshop with Councillor Pryor. Councillor Mrs Boase also attended a Bulwark Working Group Meeting and had produced a written report for Members.

Councillor D.C. Swift had attended the Cornwall Association of Local Councils General Meeting together with Councillors Mrs Swift and Pryor.

Councillor Reynolds had attended the Helston Community College Open Evening.

Councillor Phillips had attended the West Cornwall Health Watch meeting.

Councillor Mrs Swift had attended three Citizen Advice Bureau meetings, the Clean Cornwall Summit with Councillor Pryor, a Larger Local Councils meeting and a Cornwall Association of Local Council's meeting and advised that a full report was included in Members' folders.

The Mayor had attended the Keep Helston Tidy Working Party Litter Pick and had also been on patrol with the Police and gave a brief report.

The Town Clerk had attended a Cornwall Association of Local Council's meeting, a meeting at the Solicitors with Councillors Mrs Swift and Reynolds and a training event by Community Energy Plus.

**259. Items for the next Agenda**

Councillor Thomas requested that an item be placed on the next Agenda to consider awarding grant recipients with a plaque.

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

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Boase, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, 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.

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

**(1) Guildhall Kitchen Water Boiler**

Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the required part be purchased and the Town Clerk be authorised to arrange for a plumber to carry out the work to a maximum cost of £60.00.

**(2) Proposed Memorial**

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk contact Andrew George MP to confirm that the Town Council would take no further action.

**Councillor Thomas abstained from the vote.**

**The Assistant to the Town Clerk left the meeting.**

**262. Staff Report 2009**

Members considered the Staff Report by the Mayor and Town Clerk (previously circulated).

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

RESOLVED – that a Responsibility Allowance be re-introduced with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and paid to the Assistant to the Town Clerk on occasions when the Town Clerk was on annual leave for a week or more.

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

RESOLVED – that

- a) the subject of the Town Warden issuing Fixed Penalty Notices be re-visited and the Town Clerk report back to the Full Council; and
- b) the Town Clerk liaise with Councillor Mrs Swift regarding the Cornwall Association of Local Councils providing training.

The remainder of the report by the Town Clerk was noted.

**The Town Clerk left the meeting.**

Members considered the section of the Staff Report relating to the Town Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Appraisal be accepted and noted as set out.

**Meeting closed at 10.27pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**