

MINUTES OF THE POLICY, FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY 2010 AT 7.00 PM

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

Mrs S M E Swift
K Reynolds

Mrs F N E Boase
R R Pryor

M H Thomas

Cllr Mrs Matthew was also in attendance.

Officers: Mr C Dawson – Town Clerk

372. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor declared an interest in the Mayor's Allowance which was included in the Budget Monitoring Statement (Agenda item 5), and advised that he would not take part in the debate or vote on that specific budget heading.

373. Minutes

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th November 2010 be approved and signed as a true record.

374. Public Participation

Cllr Mrs Matthew referred to Agenda item 7 and advised that parking charges had recently been increased in Helston and the Cornwall Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2010 proposed to increase them again. She was of the opinion that, with free parking at out-of-town supermarkets, the price increase would deter in-town shopping.

Cllr Mrs Matthew further informed Members that wireless energy monitors were available on the market referring to Agenda item 9.

375. Budget Monitoring Statement

Members considered the Budget Monitoring Statement to 31st December 2009. The Town Clerk answered questions following which it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Budget Monitoring Statement be accepted.

376. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Town Clerk advised that new Model Standing Orders would be published by the National Association of the Local Councils (NALC) the following week and therefore recommended deferring this item until the next meeting in March.

A discussion ensued regarding the possible introduction of an agenda item for 'Urgent Business' at Full Council and Committee meetings. The Town Clerk advised that he would seek clarification from NALC and also discuss with fellow Town Clerks at the CALC Larger Local Councils meeting the following week.

It was then proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, and

RESOLVED – that Agenda item 6 be deferred until the following meeting.

377. Cornwall Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2010

Members considered the draft Cornwall Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2010 consultation (previously circulated). The Town Clerk advised that he had obtained a two-day extension to the consultation closing date. Following the debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Pryor, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk respond to the Cornwall Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2010 on behalf of the Town Council as follows:-

- a) In view of the harsh economic climate currently prevailing, and the obvious pressure experienced by retailers in Helston town centre (with several shops recently closing), the Town Council is of the opinion that the proposed increase in car parking charges are disproportionate and inappropriate. Helston will in the forthcoming year see a marked increase in out-of-town shopping provision with the opening of a Sainsbury Store and a doubling of the Tesco Store which will only serve to increase pressure on an already hard pressed town centre retail sector. The Council therefore believes that at a minimum the Helston Car Park charges remain at their current rate. However, the Council's preferred option would be a decrease in charges to encourage extra footfall into the town centre.
- b) The Town Council has noticed a charging anomaly in that permit holders in Penrose Road Car Park pay a fraction of what annual season ticket holders in other car parks pay. The Council suggests that this anomaly is rectified.
- c) The Town Council is also strongly of the opinion that this consultation from 16th December 2009 to 13th January 2010 was unduly rushed and its effectiveness was severely diluted by the inclusion of the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

378. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor Pryor, seconded by Councillor Thomas, 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 item of business by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

379. Electricity Meter

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated). Following a brief debate it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that, due to the limit of Section 137 expenditure that could be legally spent, analysis of electricity bills was not detailed enough, therefore the Committee recommended to the Amenities Committee that a meter be installed.

Meeting closed 8.07pm.

Confirmed

Town Mayor