

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 18TH MARCH 2010 AT 7.15 PM

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

R Williams
Mrs S M E Swift
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)

500. Prayers

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

501. Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was received from Councillor Pryor who was at a meeting out of the County.

On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor R.J.L. Boase, it was
RESOLVED – that the Apology be received and accepted.

502. Police Matters

The Mayor extended a welcome to WPC Butcher who presented a detailed report which included recent crime figures and those for the corresponding period from the year previous.

Councillor Mrs Swift advised that she had been contacted by a number of residents in Trengrouse Way who were experiencing problems with youths playing football and damaging their cars parked in the Oates Road Car Park. WPC Butcher advised that she would report it back to the Station.

503. Public Participation

Ms J Schofield spoke on behalf of the Porthleven Food Festival Committee to request that the Amenities Committee move the date of the Continental Market so that it did not coincide with the Porthleven Food Festival. Ms Schofield then gave details for the Food Festival, the level of advertising and the organisation required for the event. Ms Schofield advised that if the Continental Market came to Helston and not many people attended traders might not wish to come for future markets.

Councillor Powell from Porthleven Town Council expressed the opinion that it would be beneficial for the Clerks of Helston and Porthleven to share dates of Town events.

Mrs Woodhouse spoke on the different options that had been discussed over the previous months to restore the water supply to the Kennels and advised that whilst a suggestion from Councillor Williams to discuss the situation with the landowner had been ignored his efforts had culminated in a meeting with the landowner and representatives from Cornwall Council. Mrs Woodhouse further advised that the situation was being resolved and the Kennels would be

flowing within a few weeks. She then thanked Councillors Williams and Mrs Swift and Cornwall Councillor Robertson for their assistance.

Freeman Matthews advised that he was pleased to see the Kennels running on one side of Coinagehall Street and congratulated Councillors Williams, Mrs Swift and the landowner for solving the problem.

Mr I Perry informed Members that he was pleased to see water in the Kennels. He then expressed concern whether the area where shrubs had been removed from Trengrouse Way would be put right before Flora Day.

Mr Harris requested that the Town Clerk contact South West Water to request that they clean up the pumping station as it was in a bad condition with vermin present.

Mr D Thomas spoke to advised that whilst he had left the employment of Mustard Seed, he wished to thank the Town Council for their support for Mustard Seed and Members for attending the meeting regarding the proposed youth cafe. Mr Thomas then introduced the new Chairman, Mr E Bell, and advised that the Mustard Seed was still committed to youth work.

Mr Bell also thanked Members for their support for Mustard Seed.

504. Minutes

Councillor Thomas advised that the resolution for Min. No. 453/2009 should read 'that this item was referred to the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee' and not 'deferred'. It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that Min. No. 453/2009 be amended with 'deferred' deleted and 'referred' inserted.

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 18th February 2010 and the Special Full Council meeting held on the 11th February 2010 be approved subject to the above amendment and signed as a true record.

505. 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 18th February and 4th March 2010, be received.

506. Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 4th March 2010, be received.

507. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

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

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 10th March 2010, be received.

508. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors and the Community Network Manager

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

Councillor Robertson gave a detailed report during which he made particular mention to the transfer of an asset to the South Kerrier Alliance and his involvement in discussions with the landowner regarding the restoration of water to the Kennels. Councillor Reynolds enquired if Cornwall Council wished to continue with the proposal for a back-up water supply. Councillor Robertson advised that the back-up project would proceed to at least the costing level and he did not want to see the Leats go dry, but confirmed that Cornwall Council had no responsibility to maintain the Leat unless it formed part of the highway.

Councillor Wallis gave a report during which he mentioned the Bulwark meeting and a County-wide questionnaire regarding parking. Councillor Wallis further advised that the South Kerrier Alliance had been given a 99-year lease for the former cattle market site and that the feasibility of a pedestrian crossing on the Porthleven Road was currently being investigated with the possibility that a crossing could be in place within a year.

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Mrs Haycock had given her apologies as she was on Cornwall Council business and read a report on her behalf which detailed her work on a number of issues including residents parking, the Castle Green car park, white wash walls and traffic problems in Cross Street.

b) Community Network Manager

Mrs C Chadwick provided Members with a detailed report (circulated prior to the meeting) which referred to the Media Bus, the Youth Cafe/ Dry Bar Consultation Event and the proposed Street Festival meeting. Mrs Chadwick advised that the Cornwall Councillors Community Grants Scheme would be continuing from 1st April with each Member having a budget of £2,195. Mrs Chadwick further advised that the railings in Five Wells Lane had been painted by the Community Payback Scheme and advised that the Community Network Panel meeting would take place on 21st April 2010.

Councillor Reynolds requested confirmation regarding the location of the Youth Cafe. Mrs Chadwick advised that the Committee group had been advised that Mustard Seed would not be available until the end of the year therefore they were looking for a location in the short term.

509. Safe Places Scheme

Councillor Mrs Swift spoke on the Safe Places Scheme and circulated an information leaflet to Members. Councillor Mrs Swift outlined the requirements of the Scheme and urged Members to agree to sign the Council up. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council sign up to the Safe Places Scheme.

510. Grants Procedure

Councillor Mrs Matthew spoke on the current grants procedure and the benefits of introducing an application form. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Radford-Gaby, and

RESOLVED – that a small working party be formed to draft a grants policy and application form.

An amendment was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swift, that the Town Clerk draft a grant application form. The amendment failed.

It was agreed that Members would wait until the new member had been elected before appointing Members onto the working party.

511. Young People's Committee

Councillor Thomas expressed the opinion that Helston Town Council should engage with young people more as part of the Every Child Matters Programme. Councillor Thomas expressed the opinion that the world had changed and young people needed a platform to express themselves. Councillor Thomas further advised that he believed that it would be appropriate to rename the Play Committee as a Young People's Committee and expand its role to discuss all youth issues and engage with the youth. The Town Clerk advised that it would not be possible to rename the Committee as the change in its role would require a significant variation to the Play Committee's Terms of Reference and advised that if Members wished to proceed it would require the abolition of the Play Committee and the creation of a Young People's Committee.

Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor R.J.L. Boase, seconded by Councillor Thomas, that the Play Committee remain in the short term and a Young Person's Committee be formed to incorporate the Play Committee in the future.

An amendment was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by D.C. Swift, that at the earliest opportunity the Town Council seek a presentation from Karen Butler to obtain further information on the Youth Forum and youth engagement with and the decision to form a Young People's Committee be deferred until the Council obtained all the facts. On the casting vote of the Mayor this became the Substantive Motion and it was therefore

RESOLVED – that at the earliest opportunity the Town Council seek a presentation from Karen Butler to obtain further information on the Youth Forum and youth engagement and the decision to form a Young People' Committee be deferred until the Council obtained all the facts.

512. White Washed Walls

Councillor Radford-Gaby spoke on the poor condition of the white washed walls and advised that Flora Day was fast approaching and they needed tidying up. Councillor Radford-Gaby further advised that Cornwall Council had confirmed that it did not own the wall in Penrose Road and expressed the opinion that the main problem with the walls was the use of masonry paint. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that, subject to appropriate Public Liability insurance cover, Community Payback be asked to provide a team to clean up the walls by removing the loose paint and painting the top of the wall with black paint up to a maximum cost of £250.00 to make the walls presentable for Flora Day whilst ongoing negotiations continue.

513. Community Allowance

Councillor Reynolds spoke on the Community Allowance Scheme and explained how it operated. It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Council write to Mr Gordon Brown MP to support the Community Allowance Scheme in principle and to confirm that Members wished to see it introduced.

514. Section 106 Funding

Councillor Radford-Gaby spoke on the Section 106 funding Agreements between Cornwall Council and Tesco and Sainsburys detailing the funding included. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council request Cornwall Council to consider redirecting a proportion of the Section 106 funding to create a backup water supply for the town centre kennels, and alternative public realm works.

515. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Power of Well-being

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

RESOLVED – that the Town Council granted itself the Power of Well-being as it had met the following conditions:

- a) More than two-thirds of the Councillors were elected;
- b) The Clerk held the relevant qualifications;
- c) At least 80% of the Councillors had completed the relevant training; and
- d) The Council had published a Statement of Intent regarding Community Engagement.

(2) Membership of Committees and Representatives on Outside Bodies

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

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mrs Swift be appointed as the Town Council's representative on the West Cornwall Health Watch Committee.

Councillor Reynolds advised that he was also appointed to the Victim Support West Cornwall Advisory Group to represent the Town Council and expressed the opinion that two representatives were not required. On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was

RESOLVED – that one representative on the Victim Support West Cornwall Advisory Group was sufficient and Councillor Reynolds remain as the representative until the Annual meeting.

It was further proposed by Councillor R.J.L. Boase, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, and

RESOLVED – that the remaining vacancies be deferred until the Annual meeting in May.

(3) Request for Support

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

RESOLVED – that a letter of support for the provision of benches at Hens Horn Court be sent to the South Kerrier Area Panel Tenants Group.

(4) 3 Penrose Road (Helston Community Centre)

This item was noted.

(5) Highways

a) Salt Bins

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

RESOLVED – that the subject of salt bins be discussed at a future meeting.

b) Repairing Pavements

This item was noted.

(6) Police Authority Liaison Meeting

This item was noted.

(7) West Cornwall HealthWatch

This item was noted.

(8) Gifts from Italy - Insurance

This item was noted.

(9) SLCC Larger Local Councils Conference

This item was noted.

(10) Staff Training

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, and

RESOLVED – that Miss Lavelle attend the ‘Year End Accounts & Audit Made Simple’ training event, if able.

(11) Member Training

This item was noted.

(12) Town Guide

Councillor R.J.L. Boase requested that Members be notified when the draft of the Town Guide was received. The Town Clerk agreed to do this. This item was then noted.

(13) Quality Status Re-accreditation

This item was noted.

(14) Internal Audit 2009/10

This item was noted.

The Town Clerk then advised that there would no longer be a Town Clerk's Supplemental Report as it was not good practice.

516. Report of the Town Warden

Councillor Thomas noted that the Town Warden had used his own vehicle again to transport sand bags during an incident with a burst water main.

Councillor Mrs Matthew enquired if there was a reason that there was no bench in the Cob Bus Shelter. The Town Clerk advised that he would contact to Conservation Officer regarding the issue.

The Mayor expressed concern with the increasing levels of litter in the town centre. On the proposition of the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, it was

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to town centre businesses regarding the litter issues.

The Mayor declared an interest in the following item.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor R.J.L. Boase, took the Chair at 10.29pm

517. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

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

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 386-433 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £16,974.82.

(The Mayor and Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account Nos. 405 and 433 respectively.)

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

The Mayor resumed the Chair at 10.30pm

518. Attendance at Meetings

Councillor Mrs Boase had attended the Bulwark Open Meeting.

Councillor D.C. Swift had attended the CALC conference and AGM.

Councillor Mrs Matthew had attended a meeting regarding the proposed Street Festival and advised that a provisional date had been set for 17th September 2011.

Councillor Mrs Swift circulated a report in Members' folders which advised that she had attended the CALC Conference and AGM, a CALC Executive meeting, three Citizens Advice Bureau Cornwall meetings and a Larger Local Councils Liaison Group meeting.

519. Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposition of Councillor D.C. Swift, 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.

520. Helston Community Centre

Members considered correspondence from the Town Council's Solicitor (previously circulated). Councillor Reynolds updated Members on the advice given by the Town Council's Solicitor during a recent meeting. This item was then noted.

521. Valuation of the Guildhall Paintings

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) regarding the valuation of the Guildhall Paintings, following which it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that the quotation from David Lay to value the two paintings in the Council Chamber be accepted.

522. Static Guards for the Flora Day Road Closures

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk (previously circulated) regarding Static Guards for the Flora Day road closure on the Porthleven Road. Following a brief debate it was proposed by Councillor Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that the quotation of Round the Clock Security Limited be accepted as the company had afforded a high level of customer care to date.

Meeting closed at 10.43pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor